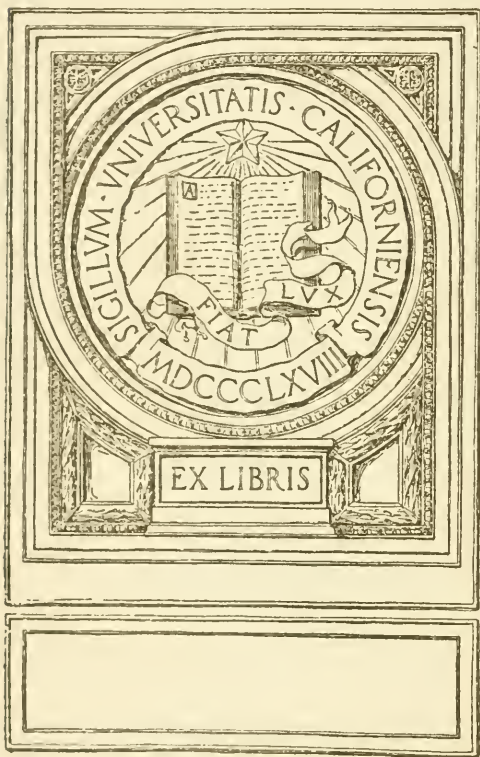




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THE
ILIAD OF HOMER

RENDERED INTO ENGLISH BLANK VERSE.

BY
EDWARD EARL OF DERBY.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

THIRD EDITION.

FROM THE FIFTH REVISED ENGLISH EDITION.

NEW YORK :
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1869.

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ABSTRACT OF THE
HONORABLE SECRETARY

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v. 1

TO

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

ALBERT EDWARD PRINCE OF WALES. K.G.

&c. &c. &c.

THIS TRANSLATION OF

THE ILIAD OF HOMER

IS BY HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS'S GRACIOUS PERMISSION

WITH PROFOUND RESPECT AND DUTIFUL ATTACHMENT

HUMBLY DEDICATED.

PREFACE.

*Dr. Moore
Lift 20
1924*

IN the spring of 1862 I was induced, at the request of some personal friends, to print, for private circulation only, a small volume of "Translations of Poems Ancient and Modern," in which was included the first Book of the Iliad. The opinions expressed by some competent judges of the degree of success which had attended this "attempt to infuse into an almost literal English version something of the spirit, as well as the simplicity, of the great original,"* were sufficiently favourable to encourage me to continue the work which I had begun. It has afforded me, in the intervals of more urgent business, an unfailing, and constantly increasing source of interest ; and it is not without a feeling of regret at the completion of my task, and

* Introduction to unpublished volume.

a sincere diffidence as to its success, that I venture to submit the result of my labour to the ordeal of public criticism.

Various causes, irrespective of any demerits of the work itself, forbid me to anticipate for this translation any extensive popularity. First, I fear that the taste for, and appreciation of, Classical Literature, are greatly on the decline ; next, those who have kept up their classical studies, and are able to read and enjoy the original, will hardly take an interest in a mere translation ; while the English reader, unacquainted with Greek, will naturally prefer the harmonious versification and polished brilliancy of Pope's translation ; with which, as a happy adaptation of the Homeric story to the spirit of English poetry, I have not the presumption to enter into competition. But, admirable as it is, Pope's Iliad can hardly be said to be Homer's Iliad ; and there may be some who, having lost the familiarity with the original language which they once possessed, may, if I have at all succeeded in my attempt, have recalled to their minds a faint echo of the strains which delighted their earlier

days, and may recognize some slight trace of the original perfume.

Numerous as have been the translators of the *Iliad*, or of parts of it, the metres which have been selected have been almost as various: the ordinary couplet in rhyme, the Spenserian stanza, the Trochaic or Ballad metre, all have had their partisans, even to that "pestilent heresy" of the so-called English Hexameter; a metre wholly repugnant to the genius of our language; which can only be pressed into the service by a violation of every rule of prosody; and of which, notwithstanding my respect for the eminent men who have attempted to naturalize it, I could never read ten lines without being irresistibly reminded of Canning's

"Dactylies call'st thou them? God help thee, silly one!"

But in the progress of this work, I have been more and more confirmed in the opinion which I expressed at its commencement, that (whatever may be the extent of my own individual failure) "if justice is ever to be done to the

easy flow and majestic simplicity of the grand old Poet, it can only be in the Heroic blank verse." I have seen isolated passages admirably rendered in other metres; and there are many instances in which a translation line for line and couplet for couplet naturally suggests itself, and in which it is sometimes difficult to avoid an involuntary rhyme; but the blank verse appears to me the only metre capable of adapting itself to all the gradations, if I may use the term, of the Homeric style; from the finished poetry of the numerous similes, in which every touch is nature, and nothing is overcoloured or exaggerated, down to the simple, almost homely, style of some portions of the narrative. Least of all can any other metre do full justice to the spirit and freedom of the various speeches, in which the old warriors give utterance, without disguise or restraint, to all their strong and genuine emotions. To subject these to the trammels of couplet and rhyme would be as destructive of their chief characteristics, as the application of a similar process to the *Paradise Lost* of Milton, or the tragedies of Shakespeare; the effect indeed may

be seen by comparing, with some of the noblest speeches of the latter, the few couplets which he seems to have considered himself bound by custom to tack on to their close, at the end of a scene or an act.

I have adopted, not without hesitation, the Latin, rather than the Greek, nomenclature for the Heathen Deities. I have been induced to do so from the manifest incongruity of confounding the two ; and from the fact that though English readers may be familiar with the names of Zeus, or Aphrodite, or even Poseidon, those of Hera, or Ares, or Hephæstus, or Leto, would hardly convey to them a definite signification.

It has been my aim throughout to produce a translation and not a paraphrase ; not indeed such a translation as would satisfy, with regard to each word, the rigid requirements of accurate scholarship ; but such as would fairly and honestly give the sense and spirit of every passage, and of every line ; omitting nothing, and expanding nothing ; and adhering, as closely as our language will allow, ever to every epithet which is capable of being translated, and

which has, in the particular passage, anything of a special and distinctive character. Of the many deficiencies in my execution of this intention, I am but too conscious ; whether I have been in any degree successful, must be left to the impartial decision of such of the Public as may honour this work with their perusal.

D.

KNOWSLEY, OCT., 1864

NOTE TO THE FIFTH EDITION.

THE favourable reception which has been given to the first Editions of this work, far exceeding my most sanguine hopes, affords a gratifying proof how far, in my preface, I had over-rated the extent to which the taste for, and appreciation of, Classical Literature had declined. It will not, I hope, be thought extraordinary that some errors and inaccuracies should have found their way into a translation executed, I must admit, somewhat hastily, and with less of the “*limæ labor*” than I should have bestowed upon it, had I ventured to anticipate for it so extensive a circulation. My thanks, therefore, are due to those critics, who, either publicly or privately, have called my attention to passages in which the sense of the Author has been either incorrectly or imper-

fectly rendered. All of these I have examined, and have availed myself of several of the suggestions offered for their correction; and a careful revision of the whole work, and renewed comparison with the original, have enabled me to discover other defects, the removal of which will, I hope, render the present Edition, especially in the eyes of Classical Scholars, somewhat more worthy of the favour which has been accorded to its predecessors.

D.

ST. JAMES'S SQUARE, *May*, 1865.

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ARGUMENT.

THE CONTENTION OF ACHILLES AND AGAMEMNON.

In the war of Troy, the Greeks having sacked some of the neighbouring towns, and taken from thence two beautiful captives, Chryseis and Briseis, allotted the first to Agamemnon, and the last to Achilles. Chryses, the father of Chryseis, and priest of Apollo, comes to the Grecian camp to ransom her ; with which the action of the poem opens, in the tenth year of the siege. The priest being refused, and insolently dismissed by Agamemnon, entreats for vengeance from his god, who inflicts a pestilence on the Greeks. Achilles calls a council, and encourages Calchas to declare the cause of it, who attributes it to the refusal of Chryseis. The King being obliged to send back his captive, enters into a furious contest with Achilles, which Nestor pacifies ; however, as he had the absolute command of the army, he seizes on Briseis in revenge. Achilles in discontent withdraws himself and his forces from the rest of the Greeks ; and complaining to Thetis, she supplicates Jupiter to render them sensible of the wrong done to her son, by giving victory to the Trojans. Jupiter granting her suit, incenses Juno, between whom the debate runs high, till they are reconciled by the address of Vulcan.

The time of two-and-twenty days is taken up in this book ; nine during the plague, one in the council and quarrel of the Princes, and twelve for Jupiter's stay among the Ethiopians, at whose return Thetis prefers her petition, The scene lies in the Grecian camp, then changes to Chrysa, and lastly to Olympus.

HOMER'S ILIAD.

BOOK I.

OF Peleus' son, Achilles, sing, O Muse,
The vengeance, deep and deadly; whence to Greece
Unnumbered ills arose; which many a soul
Of mighty warriors to the viewless shades
Untimely sent; they on the battle plain 5
Unburied lay, a prey to rav'ning dogs,
And carrion birds; but so had Jove decreed;
From that sad day when first in wordy war,
The mighty Agamemnon, King of men,
Confronted stood by Peleus' godlike son. 10

Say then, what God the fatal strife provok'd?
Jove's and Latona's son; he, filled with wrath
Against the King, with deadly pestilence
The camp afflicted,—and the people died,—
For Chryses' sake, his priest, whom Atreus' son 15

With scorn dismiss'd, when to the Grecian ships
He came, his captive daughter to redeem,
With costly ransom charg'd; and in his hand
The sacred fillet of his God he bore,
And golden staff; to all he sued, but chief 20
To Atreus' sons, twin captains of the host:
"Ye sons of Atreus, and ye well-greav'd Greeks,
May the great Gods, who on Olympus dwell,
Grant you yon hostile city to destroy,
And home return in safety; but my child 25
Restore, I pray; her proffer'd ransom take,
And in his priest, the Lord of Light revere."

Then through the ranks assenting murmurs ran,
The priest to rev'rence, and the ransom take:
Not so Atrides; he, with haughty mien, 30
And bitter speech, the trembling sire address'd:
"Old man, I warn thee, that beside our ships
I find thee not, or ling'ring now, or back
Returning; lest thou prove of small avail
Thy golden staff, and fillet of thy God. 35
Her I release not, till her youth be fled;
Within my walls, in Argos, far from home,

Her lot is cast, domestic cares to ply,
And share a master's bed. For thee, begone !
Incense me not, lest ill betide thee now." 40

He said : the old man trembled, and obeyed ;
Beside the many-dashing Ocean's shore
Silent he pass'd ; and all apart, he pray'd
λ To great Apollo, fair Latona's son :
“ Hear me, God of the silver bow ! whose care 45
Chrysa surrounds, and Cilla's lovely vale ;
Whose sov'reign sway o'er Tenedos extends ;
O Smintheus, hear ! if e'er my offered gifts
Found favour in thy sight ; if e'er to thee
I burn'd the fat of bulls and choicest goats, 50
Grant me this boon—upon the Grecian host
Let thine unerring darts avenge my tears.”

Thus as he pray'd, his pray'r Apollo heard :
Along Olympus' heights he pass'd, his heart
Burning with wrath ; behind his shoulders hung 55
His bow, and ample quiver ; at his back
Rattled the fateful arrows as he mov'd ;
Like the night-cloud he pass'd, and from afar
He bent against the ships, and sped the bolt ;

And fierce and deadly twang'd the silver bow. 60
First on the mules and dogs, on man the last,
Was pour'd the arrowy storm ; and through the camp,
Constant and num'rous, blaz'd the fun'ral fires.

Nine days the heav'nly Archer on the troops
Hurl'd his dread shafts ; the tenth, th'assembled Greeks
Achilles call'd to council ; so inspir'd 66
By Juno, white-arm'd Goddess, who beheld
With pitying eyes the wasting hosts of Greece.
When all were met, and closely throng'd around,
Rose the swift-footed chief, and thus began : 70

“ Great son of Atreus, to my mind there seems,
If we would 'scape from death, one only course,
Home to retrace our steps : since here at once
By war and pestilence our forces waste.
But seek we first some prophet, or some priest, 75
Or some wise vision-seer (since visions too
From Jove proceed), who may the cause explain,
Which with such deadly wrath Apollo fires :
If for neglected hecatombs or pray'rs
He blame us ; or if fat of lambs and goats 80
May soothe his anger and the plague assuage.”

This said, he sat ; and Thestor's son arose,
Calchas, the chief of seers, to whom were known
The present, and the future, and the past ;
Who, by his mystic art, Apollo's gift, 85
Guided to Ilium's shore the Grecian fleet.
Who thus with cautious speech replied, and said ;
“ Achilles, lov'd of Heav'n, thou bidd'st me say
Why thus incens'd the far-destroying King ;
Therefore I speak ; but promise thou, and swear, 90
By word and hand, to bear me harmless through.
For well I know my speech must one offend, x
The Argive chief, o'er all the Greeks supreme ;
And terrible to men of low estate
The anger of a King ; for though awhile 95
He veil his wrath, yet in his bosom pent
It still is nurs'd, until the time arrive ;
Say, then, wilt thou protect me, if I speak ?”

Him answer'd thus Achilles, swift of foot :
“ Speak boldly out whate'er thine art can tell ; 100
For by Apollo's self I swear, whom thou,
O Calchas, serv'st, and who thy words inspires,
That, while I live, and see the light of Heav'n,

Not one of all the Greeks shall dare on thee,
Beside our ships, injurious hands to lay: 105
No, not if Agamemnon's self were he,
Who 'mid our warriors boasts the foremost place."

Embolden'd thus, th' unerring prophet spoke:
"Not for neglected hecatombs or pray'rs,
But for his priest, whom Agamemnon scorn'd, 110
Nor took his ransom, nor his child restor'd;
On his account the Far-destroyer sends
This scourge of pestilence, and yet will send;
Nor shall we cease his heavy hand to feel,
Till to her sire we give the bright-ey'd girl, 115
Unbought, unransom'd, and to Chrysa's shore
A solemn hecatomb despatch; this done,
The God, appeas'd, his anger may remit."

This said, he sat; and Atreus' godlike son,
The mighty monarch, Agamemnon, rose, 120
His dark soul fill'd with fury, and his eyes
Flashing like flames of fire; on Calchas first
A with'ring glance he cast, and thus he spoke;

"Prophet of ill! thou never speak'st to me
But words of evil omen; for thy soul 125

Delights to augur ill, but aught of good
Thou never yet hast promis'd, nor perform'd.
And now among the Greeks thou spread'st abroad
Thy lying prophecies, that all these ills
Come from the Far-destroyer, for that I 130
Refus'd the ransom of my lovely prize,
And that I rather chose herself to keep,
To me not less than Clytemnestra dear,
My virgin-wedded wife ; nor less adorn'd
In gifts of form, of feature, or of mind. 135
Yet, if it must be so, I give her back ;
I wish my people's safety, not their death.
But seek me out forthwith some other spoil,
Lest empty-handed I alone appear
Of all the Greeks ; for this would ill beseem ; 140
And how I lose my present share, ye see."

To whom Achilles, swift of foot, replied :
"Haughtiest of men, and greediest of the prey !
How shall our valiant Greeks for thee seek out
Some other spoil ? no common fund have we 145
Of hoarded treasures ; what our arms have won
From captur'd towns, has been already shar'd,

Nor can we now resume th' apportion'd spoil.

Restore the maid, obedient to the God !

And if Heav'n will that we the strong-built walls 150

Of Troy should raze, our warriors will to thee

A threefold, fourfold recompense assign."

To whom the monarch Agamemnon thus :

"Think not, Achilles, valiant though thou art

In fight, and godlike, to defraud me thus ; 155

Thou shalt not so persuade me, nor o'erreach.

Think'st thou to keep thy portion of the spoil,

While I with empty hands sit humbly down ?

The bright-ey'd girl thou bidd'st me to restore ;

If then the valiant Greeks for me seek out 160

Some other spoil, some compensation just,

'Tis well : if not, I with my own right hand

Will from some other chief, from thee perchance,

Or Ajax, or Ulysses, wrest his prey ;

And woe to him, on whomsoe'er I call ! 165

But this for future counsel we remit :

Haste we then now our dark-ribb'd bark to launch,

Muster a fitting crew, and place on board

The sacred hecatomb ; then last embark

The fair Chryseis ; and in chief command 170

Let some one of our counsellors be plac'd,

Ajax, Ulysses, or Idomeneus,

Or thou, the most ambitious of them all,

That so our rites may soothe the angry God."

To whom Achilles thus with scornful glance ; 175

" Oh, cloth'd in shamelessness ! oh, sordid soul !

How canst thou hope that any Greek for thee

Will brave the toils of travel or of war ?

Well dost thou know that 't was no feud of mine

With Troy's brave sons that brought me here in arms ;

They never did me wrong ; they never drove 181

My cattle, or my horses ; never sought

In Phthia's fertile, life-sustaining fields

To waste the crops ; for wide between us lay

The shadowy mountains and the roaring sea. 185

With thee, O void of shame ! with thee we sail'd,

For Meneläus and for thee, ingrate,

Glory and fame on Trojan crests to win.

All this hast thou forgotten, or despis'd ;

And threat'nest now to wrest from me the prize 190

I labour'd hard to win, and Greeks bestow'd.

Nor does my portion ever equal thine,
When on some populous town our troops have made
Successful war ; in the contentious fight
The larger portion of the toil is mine ; 195
But when the day of distribution comes,
Thine is the richest spoil ; while I, forsooth,
Must be too well content to bear on board
Some paltry prize for all my warlike toil.
To Phthia now I go ; so better far, 200
To steer my homeward course, and leave thee here
But little like, I deem, dishonouring me,
To fill thy coffers with the spoils of war."

Whom answer'd Agamemnon, King of men :
"Fly then, if such thy mind ! I ask thee not 205
On mine account to stay ; others there are
Will guard my honour and avenge my cause :
And chief of all, the Lord of counsel, Jove !
Of all the Heav'n-born Kings, thou art the man
I hate the most ; for thou délight'st in nought 210
But war and strife : thy prowess I allow ;
Yet this, remember, is the gift of Heav'n.
Return then, with thy vessels, if thou wilt,

And with thy followers, home ; and lord it there
Over thy Myrmidons ! I heed thee not ! 215
I care not for thy fury ! Hear my threat :
Since Phœbus wrests Chryseis from my arms,
In mine own ship, and with mine own good crew,
Her I send forth ; and, in her stead, I mean,
Ev'n from thy tent, myself, to bear thy prize, 220
The fair Briseis ; that henceforth thou know
How far I am thy master ; and that, taught
By thine example, others too may fear
To rival me, and brave me to my face."

Thus while he spake, Achilles chaf'd with rage ; 225
And in his manly breast his heart was torn
With thoughts conflicting—whether from his side
To draw his mighty sword, and thrusting by
Th' assembled throng, to kill th' insulting King ;
Or school his soul, and keep his anger down. 230
But while in mind and spirit thus he mus'd,
And half unsheath'd his sword, from Heav'n came down
Minerva, sent by Juno, white-arm'd Queen,
Whose love and care both chiefs alike enjoy'd.
She stood behind, and by the yellow hair 235

She held the son of Peleus, visible
To him alone, by all the rest unseen.
Achilles, wond'ring, turn'd, and straight he knew
The blue-eyed Pallas ; awful was her glance ;
Whom thus the chief with wingèd words address'd :

“ Why com'st thou, child of ægis-bearing Jove ? 241
To see the arrogance of Atreus' son ?
But this I say, and will make good my words,
This insolence may cost him soon his life.”

To whom the blue-ey'd Goddess thus replied : 245
“ From Heav'n I came, to curb, if thou wilt hear,
Thy fury ; sent by Juno, white-arm'd Queen,
Whose love and care ye both alike enjoy.
Cease, then, these broils, and draw not thus thy sword ;
In words, indeed, assail him as thou wilt. 250
But this I promise, and will make it good,
The time shall come, when for this insolence
A threefold compensation shall be thine ;
Only be sway'd by me, and curb thy wrath.”

Whom answer'd thus Achilles, swift of foot : 255
“ Goddess, I needs must yield to your commands,
Indignant though I be—for so 'tis best ;

Who hears the Gods, of them his pray'rs are heard."

He said : and on the silver hilt he stay'd

His pow'rful hand, and flung his mighty sword 260

Back to its scabbard, to Minerva's word

Obedient : she her heav'nward course pursued

To join th' Immortals in th' abode of Jove.

But Peleus' son, with undiminish'd wrath,

Atrides thus with bitter words address'd : 265

" Thou sot, with eye of dog, and heart of deer !

Who never dar'st to lead in armèd fight

Th' assembled host, nor with a chosen few

To man the secret ambush—for thou fear'st

To look on death—no doubt 'tis easier far, 270

Girt with thy troops, to plunder of his right

Whoe'er may venture to oppose thy will !

A tyrant King, because thou rul'st o'er slaves !

Were it not so, this insult were thy last.

But this I say, and with an oath confirm, 275

By this my royal staff, which never more

Shall put forth leaf nor spray, since first it left

Upon the mountain-side its parent stem,

Nor blossom more ; since all around the axe

Hath lopp'd both leaf and bark, and now 'tis borne 280
Emblem of justice, by the sons of Greece,
Who guard the sacred ministry of law
Before the face of Jove ! a mighty oath !
The time shall come, when all the sons of Greece
Shall mourn Achilles' loss ; and thou the while, 285
Heart-rent, shalt be all-impotent to aid,
When by the warrior-slayer Hector's hand
Many shall fall ; and then thy soul shall mourn
The slight on Grecia's bravest warrior cast."

Thus spoke Pelides ; and upon the ground 290
He cast his staff, with golden studs emboss'd,
And took his seat ; on th' other side, in wrath,
Atrides burn'd ; but Nestor interpos'd ;
Nestor, the leader of the Pylian host,
The smooth-tongued chief, from whose persuasive lips
Sweeter than honey flowed the stream of speech. 296
Two generations of the sons of men
For him were past and gone, who with himself
Were born and bred on Pylos' lovely shore,
And o'er the third he now held royal sway. 300
He thus with prudent words the chiefs address'd :

“ Alas, alas ! what grief is this for Greece !
What joy for Priam, and for Priam's sons !
What exultation for the men of Troy,
To hear of feuds 'tween you, of all the Greeks 305
The first in council, and the first in fight !
Yet, hear my words, I pray ; in years, at least,
Ye both must yield to me ; and in times past
I liv'd with men, and they despis'd me not,
Abler in counsel, greater than yourselves. 310
Such men I never saw, and ne'er shall see,
As Pirithous and Dryas, wise and brave,
Cœneus, Exadius, godlike Polypheme,
And Theseus, Ægeus' more than mortal son.
The mightiest they among the sons of men ; 315
The mightiest they, and of the forest beasts
Strove with the mightiest, and their rage subdued.
With them from distant lands, from Pylos' shore
I join'd my forces, and their call obey'd ;
With them I play'd my part ; with them, not one 320
Would dare to fight of mortals now on earth.
Yet they my counsels heard, my voice obey'd ;
And hear ye also, for my words are wise.

Nor thou, though great thou be, attempt to rob
Achilles of his prize, but let him keep 325
The spoil assign'd him by the sons of Greece ;
Nor thou, Pelides, with the monarch strive
In rivalry ; for ne'er to sceptred King
Hath Jove such pow'rs, as to Atrides, giv'n ;
And valiant though thou art, and Goddess-born, 330
Yet mightier he, for wider is his sway.
Atrides, curb thy wrath ! while I beseech
Achilles to forbear ; in whom the Greeks
From adverse war their great defender see."

To whom the monarch, Agamemnon, thus : 335
" O father, full of wisdom are thy words ;
But this proud chief o'er all would domineer ;
O'er all he seeks to rule, o'er all to reign,
To all to dictate ; which I will not bear.
Grant that the Gods have giv'n him warlike might, 340
Gave they unbridled license to his tongue ? "

To whom Achilles, interrupting, thus :
" Coward and slave indeed I might be deem'd,
Could I submit to make thy word my law ;
To others thy commands ; seek not to me 345

To dictate, for I follow thee no more.

But hear me speak, and ponder what I say :

For the fair girl I fight not (since you choose

To take away the prize yourselves bestow'd)

With thee or any one ; but of the rest 350

My dark swift ship contains, against my will

On nought shalt thou, unpunish'd, lay thy hand.

Make trial if thou wilt, that these may know ;

Thy life-blood soon should reek upon my spear."

After this conflict keen of angry speech, 355

The chiefs arose, the assembly was dispers'd.

With his own followers, and Menœtius' son,

Achilles to his tents and ships withdrew.

But Atreus' son launch'd a swift-sailing bark,

With twenty rowers mann'd, and plac'd on board 360

The sacred hecatomb ; then last embark'd

The fair Chryseis, and in chief command

Laertes' son, the sage Ulysses, plac'd.

They swiftly sped along the wat'ry way.

Next, proclamation through the camp was made 365

To purify the host ; and in the sea,

Obedient to the word, they purified ;

Then to Apollo solemn rites perform'd
With faultless hecatombs of bulls and goats,
Upon the margin of the wat'ry waste ; 370
And, wreath'd in smoke, the savour rose to Heav'n.

The camp thus occupied, the King pursued
His threaten'd plan of vengeance ; to his side
Calling Talthybius and Eurybates,
Heralds, and faithful followers, thus he spoke : 375

“Haste to Achilles' tent, and in your hand
Back with you thence the fair Briseis bring :
If he refuse to send her, I myself
With a sufficient force will bear her thence,
Which he may find, perchance, the worse for him.” 380

So spake the monarch, and with stern command
Dismiss'd them ; with reluctant steps they pass'd
Along the margin of the wat'ry waste,
Till to the tents and ships they came, where lay
The warlike Myrmidons. Their chief they found 385
Sitting beside his tent and dark-ribb'd ship.
Achilles mark'd their coming, not well pleas'd :
With troubled mien, and awe-struck by the King,
They stood, nor dar'd accost him ; but himself

Divin'd their errand, and address'd them thus : 390

“ Welcome, ye messengers of Gods and men,
Heralds ! approach in safety ; not with you,
But with Atrides, is my just offence,
Who for the fair Briseis sends you here.

Go, then, Patroclus, bring the maiden forth, 395

And give her to their hands ; but witness ye,
Before the blessed Gods and mortal men,
And to the face of that injurious King,

When he shall need my arm, from shameful rout
To save his followers ; blinded by his rage, 400

He neither heeds experience of the past
Nor scans the future, provident how best
To guard his fleet and army from the foe.”

He spoke : obedient to his friend and chief,
Patroclus led the fair Briseis forth, 405

And gave her to their hands ; they to the ships
Retrac'd their steps, and with them the fair girl
Reluctant went : meanwhile Achilles, plung'd

In bitter grief, from all the band apart,
Upon the margin of the hoary sea 410

Sat idly gazing on the dark-blue waves ;

And to his Goddess-mother long he pray'd,
With outstretch'd hands, " Oh, mother ! since thy son
To early death by destiny is doom'd,
I might have hop'd the Thunderer on high, 415
Olympian Jove, with honour would have crown'd
My little space ; but now disgrace is mine ;
Since Agamemnon, the wide-ruling King,
Hath wrested from me, and still holds, my prize."

Weeping, he spoke ; his Goddess-mother heard, 420
Beside her aged father where she sat
In the deep ocean-caves : ascending quick
Through the dark waves, like to a misty cloud,
Beside her son she stood ; and as he wept,
She gently touch'd him with her hand, and said, 425
" Why weeps my son ? and whence his cause of grief ?
Speak out, that I may hear, and share thy pain."

To whom Achilles, swift of foot, replied,
Groaning, " Thou know'st ; what boots to tell thee all ?
On Thebes we march'd, Eëtion's sacred town, 430
And storm'd the walls, and hither bore the spoil.
The spoils were fairly by the sons of Greece
Apportion'd out ; and to Atrides' share

The beauteous daughter of old Chryses fell.

Chryses, Apollo's priest, to free his child, 435

Came to th' encampment of the brass-clad Greeks,

With costly ransom charg'd ; and in his hand

The sacred fillet of his God he bore,

And golden staff ; to all he sued, but chief

To Atreus' sons, twin captains of the host. 440

Then through the ranks assenting murmurs ran,

The priest to rev'rence, and the ransom take :

Not so Atrides ; he, with haughty mien

And bitter words, the trembling sire dismiss'd.

The old man turn'd in sorrow ; but his pray'r 445

Phœbus Apollo heard, who lov'd him well.

Against the Greeks he bent his fatal bow,

And fast the people fell ; on ev'ry side

Throughout the camp the heav'nly arrows flew ;

A skilful seer at length the cause reveal'd 450

Why thus incens'd the Archer-God ; I then,

The first, gave counsel to appease his wrath.

Whereat Atrides, full of fury, rose,

And utter'd threats, which he hath now fulfill'd.

For Chryses' daughter to her native land 455

In a swift-sailing ship the keen-ey'd Greeks
Have sent, with costly off'rings to the God :
But her, assign'd me by the sons of Greece,
Brises' fair daughter, from my tent e'en now
The heralds bear away. Then, Goddess, thou, 460
If thou hast pow'r, protect thine injur'd son.
Fly to Olympus, to the feet of Jove,
And make thy pray'r to him, if on his heart
Thou hast in truth, by word or deed, a claim.
For I remember, in my father's house, 465
I oft have heard thee boast, how thou, alone
Of all th' Immortals, Saturn's cloud-girt son
Didst shield from foul disgrace, when all the rest,
Juno, and Neptune, and Minerva join'd,
With chains to bind him ; then, O Goddess, thou 470
Didst set him free, invoking to his aid
Him of the hundred arms, whom Briareus
Th' immortal Gods, and men Ægeon call.
He, mightier than his father, took his seat
By Saturn's side, in pride of conscious strength : 475
Fear seiz'd on all the Gods, nor did they dare
To bind their King : of this remind him now,

And clasp his knees, and supplicate his aid
For Troy's brave warriors, that the routed Greeks
Back to their ships with slaughter may be driv'n ; 480
That all may taste the folly of their King,
And Agamemnon's haughty self may mourn
The slight on Grecia's bravest warrior cast."

Thus he ; and Thetis, weeping, thus replied :
" Alas, my child, that e'er I gave thee birth ! 485
Would that beside thy ships thou could'st remain
From grief exempt, and insult ! since by fate
Few years are thine, and not a lengthened term ;
At once to early death and sorrows doom'd
Beyond the lot of man ! in evil hour 490
I gave thee birth ! But to the snow-clad heights
Of great Olympus, to the throne of Jove,
Who wields the thunder, thy complaints I bear.
Thou by thy ships, meanwhile, against the Greeks
Thine anger nurse, and from the fight abstain. 495
For Jove is to a solemn banquet gone
Beyond the sea, on Æthiopia's shore,
Since yesternight ; and with him all the Gods.
On the twelfth day he purpos'd to return

To high Olympus ; thither then will I, 500
And to his feet my supplication make ;
And he, I think, will not deny my suit."

This said, she disappear'd ; and left him there
Musing in anger on the lovely form
Torn from his arms by violence away. 505

Meantime, Ulysses, with his sacred freight,
Arriv'd at Chrysa's strand ; and when his bark
Had reach'd the shelter of the deep sea bay,
Their sails they furl'd, and lower'd to the hold ;
Slack'd the retaining shrouds, and quickly struck 510
And stow'd away the mast ; then with their sweeps
Pull'd for the beach, and cast their anchors out,
And made her fast with cables to the shore.
Then on the slinging breakwater themselves
They landed, and the sacred hecatomb 515
To great Apollo ; and Chryseis last.
Her to the altar straight Ulysses led,
The wise in counsel ; in her father's hand
He plac'd the maiden, and address'd him thus :
" Chryses, from Agamemnon, King of men, 520
To thee I come, thy daughter to restore ;

And to thy God, upon the Greeks' behalf,
To offer sacrifice, if haply so
We may appease his wrath, who now incens'd
With grievous suff'ring visits all our host." — 525
Then to her sire he gave her ; he with joy
Receiv'd his child ; the sacred hecatomb
Around the well-built altar for the God
In order due they plac'd ; their hands then washed,
And the salt cake prepar'd, before them all 530
With hands uplifted Chryses pray'd aloud :

“Hear me, God of the silver bow ! whose care
Chrysa surrounds, and Cilla's lovely vale,
Whose sov'reign sway o'er Tenedos extends !
Once hast thou heard my pray'r, aveng'd my cause, 535
And pour'd thy fury on the Grecian host.
Hear yet again, and grant what now I ask ;
Withdraw thy chast'ning hand, and stay the plague.”

Thus, as he pray'd, his pray'r Apollo heard.
Their pray'rs concluded, and the salt cake strew'd 540
Upon the victims' heads, they drew them back,
And slew, and flay'd ; then cutting from the thighs
The choicest pieces, and in double layers

O'erspreading them with fat, above them plac'd
The due meat-off'rings ; then the aged priest 545
The cleft wood kindled, and libations pour'd
Of ruddy wine ; arm'd with the five-fork'd prongs
Th' attendant ministers beside him stood.
The thighs consum'd with fire, the inward parts
They tasted first ; the rest upon the spits 550
Roasted with care, and from the fire withdrew.
Their labours ended, and the feast prepar'd,
They shared the social meal, nor lacked there aught.
The rage of thirst and hunger satisfied,
Th' attendant youths the flowing goblets crown'd, 555
And in fit order serv'd the cups to all.
All day they sought the favour of the God,
The glorious pæans chanting, and the praise
Of Phœbus : he, well pleas'd, the strain receiv'd
But when the sun was set, and shades of night 560
O'erspread the sky, upon the sandy beach
Close to their ship they laid them down to rest.
And when the rosy-finger'd morn appear'd,
Back to the camp they took their homeward way
A fav'ring breeze the Far-destroyer sent : 565

They stepp'd the mast, and spread the snowy sail :
Full in the midst the bellying sail receiv'd
The gallant breeze ; and round the vessel's prow
The dark waves loudly roar'd, as on she rush'd
Skimming the seas, and cut her wat'ry way. 570

Arriv'd where lay the wide-spread host of Greece,
Their dark-ribb'd vessel on the beach they drew
High on the sand, and strongly shor'd her up ;
Then through the camp they took their sev'ral ways.

Meantime, beside the ships Achilles sat, 575
The Heav'n-born son of Peleus, swift of foot,
Chafing with rage repress'd ; no more he sought
The honour'd council, nor the battle-field ;
But wore his soul away, and inly pin'd
For the fierce joy and tumult of the fight. 580

But when the twelfth revolving day was come,
Back to Olympus' heights th' immortal Gods,
Jove at their head, together all return'd.
Then Thetis, mindful of her son's request,
Rose from the ocean wave, and sped in haste 585
To high Olympus, and the courts of Heav'n.

x Th' all-seeing son of Saturn there she found
jove

Sitting apart upon the topmost crest
Of many-ridg'd Olympus ; at his feet
She sat, and while her left hand clasp'd his knees, 590
Her right approached his beard, and suppliant thus
She made her pray'r to Saturn's royal son :

“ Father, if e'er amid th' immortal Gods
By word or deed I did thee service true,
Hear now my pray'r ! Avenge my hapless son, 595
Of mortals shortest-liv'd, insulted now
By mighty Agamemnon, King of men,
And plunder'd of his lawful spoils of war.
But Jove, Olympian, Lord of counsel, Thou
Avenge his cause ; and give to Trojan arms 600
Such strength and pow'r, that Greeks may learn how
much

They need my son, and give him honour due.”

She said : the Cloud-compeller answer'd not,
But silent sat ; then Thetis clasp'd his knees,
And hung about him, and her suit renew'd : 605

“ Give me thy promise sure, thy gracious nod,
Or else refuse (for thou hast none to fear),
That I may learn, of all th' immortal Gods,

How far I stand the lowest in thine eyes."

Then, much disturb'd, the Cloud-compeller spoke :

"Sad work thou mak'st, in bidding me oppose 611

My will to Juno's, when her bitter words

Assail me ; for full oft amid the Gods

She taunts me, that I aid the Trojan cause.

But thou return, that Juno see thee not, 615

And leave to me the furth'rance of thy suit.

Lo, to confirm thy faith, I nod my head ;

And well among th' immortal Gods is known

The solemn import of that pledge from me :

For ne'er my promise shall deceive, or fail, 620

Or be recall'd, if with a nod confirm'd."

He said, and nodded with his shadowy brows ;

Wav'd on th' immortal head th' ambrosial locks,

And all Olympus trembled at his nod.

They parted thus : from bright Olympus' heights 625

The Goddess hasted to her ocean-caves,

Jove to his palace ; at his entrance all

Rose from their seats at once ; not one presum'd

To wait his coming, but advanc'd to meet.

Then on his throne he sat ; but not unmark'd 630

Of Juno's eye had been the council held
In secret with the silver-footed Queen,
The daughter of the aged Ocean-God ;
And with sharp words she thus addressed her Lord :

“ Tell me, deceiver, who was she with whom 635
Thou late held'st council ? ever 'tis thy way
Apart from me to weave thy secret schemes,
Nor dost thou freely share with me thy mind.”

To whom the Sire of Gods and men replied :
“ Expect not, Juno, all my mind to know ; 640
My wife thou art, yet would such knowledge be
Too much for thee ; whate'er I deem it fit
That thou shouldst know, nor God nor man shall hear
Before thee ; but what I in secret plan,
Seek not to know, nor curiously inquire.” 645

Whom answer'd thus the stag-ey'd Queen of Heav'n :
“ What words, dread son of Saturn, dost thou speak ?
Ne'er have I sought, or now, or heretofore,
Thy secret thoughts to know ; what thou think'st fit
To tell, I wait thy gracious will to hear. 650
Yet fear I in my soul thou art beguil'd
By wiles of Thetis, silver-footed Queen,

The daughter of the aged Ocean-God ;
For she was with thee early, and embrac'd
Thy knees, and has, I think, thy promise sure, 655
Thou wilt avenge Achilles' cause, and bring
Destructive slaughter on the Grecian host."

To whom the Cloud-compeller thus replied :
"Presumptuous, to thy busy thoughts thou giv'st
Too free a range, and watchest all I do ; 660
Yet shalt thou not prevail, but rather thus
Be alien'd from my heart—the worse for thee !
If this be so, it is my sov'reign will.
But now, keep silence, and my words obey,
Lest all th' Immortals fail, if I be wroth, 665
To rescue thee from my resistless hand."

He said, and terror seiz'd the stag-ey'd Queen :
Silent she sat, curbing her spirit down,
And all the Gods in pitying sorrow mourn'd.
Vulcan, the skill'd artificer, then first 670
Broke silence, and with soothing words address'd
His mother, Juno, white-arm'd Queen of Heav'n :
"Sad were't, indeed, and grievous to be borne,
If for the sake of mortal men you two

Should suffer angry passions to arise, 675
And kindle broils in Heav'n ; so should our feast
By evil influence all its sweetness lack.
Let me advise my mother (and I know
That her own reason will my words approve)
To speak my father fair ; lest he again 680
Reply in anger, and our banquet mar.
For Jove, the lightning's Lord, if such his will,
Might hurl us from our seats (so great his pow'r),
But thou address him still with gentle words ;
So shall his favour soon again be ours." 685

This said, he rose, and in his mother's hand
A double goblet plac'd, as thus he spoke :
“ Have patience, mother mine ! though much enforc'd,
Restrain thy spirit, lest perchance these eyes,
Dear as thou art, behold thee brought to shame ; 690
And I, though griev'd in heart, be impotent
To save thee ; for 'tis hard to strive with Jove.
When to thy succour once before I came,
He seiz'd me by the foot, and hurl'd me down
From Heav'n's high threshold ; all the day I fell, 695
And with the setting sun, on Lemnos' isle

Lighted, scarce half alive ; there was I found,
And by the Sintian people kindly nurs'd."

Thus as he spoke, the white-armed Goddess smil'd,
And, smiling, from his hand receiv'd the cup, 700
Then to th' Immortals all, in order due,
He minister'd, and from the flagon pour'd
The luscious nectar ; while among the Gods
Rose laughter irrepressible, at sight
Of Vulcan hobbling round the spacious hall. 705

Thus they till sunset pass'd the festive hours ;
Nor lack'd the banquet aught to please the sense,
Nor sound of tuneful lyre, by Phœbus touch'd,
Nor Muses' voice, who in alternate strains
Responsive sang : but when the sun had set, 710
Each to his home departed, where for each
The crippled Vulean, matchless architect,
With wondrous skill a noble house had rear'd.

To his own couch, where he was wont of old,
When overcome by gentle sleep, to rest, 715
Olympian Jove ascended ; there he slept,
And, by his side, the golden-thronèd Queen. 717

ARGUMENT.

THE TRIAL OF THE ARMY AND CATALOGUE OF THE FORCES.

Jupiter, in pursuance of the request of Thetis, sends a deceitful vision to Agamemnon, persuading him to lead the army to battle in order to make the Greeks sensible of their want of Achilles. The general, who is deluded with the hopes of taking Troy without his assistance, but fears the army was discouraged by his absence and the late plague, as well as by length of time, contrives to make trial of their disposition by a stratagem. He first communicates his design to the princes in council that he would propose a return to the soldiers, and that they should put a stop to them if the proposal was embraced. Then he assembles the whole host, and upon moving for a return to Greece, they unanimously agree to it, and run to prepare the ships. They are detained by the management of Ulysses, who chastises the insolence of Thersites. The assembly is recalled, several speeches made on the occasion, and at length the advice of Nestor followed, which was to make a general muster of the troops, and to divide them into their several nations, before they proceeded to battle. This gives occasion to the poet to enumerate all the forces of the Greeks and Trojans, in a large catalogue.

The time employed in this book consists not entirely of one day. The scene lies in the Grecian camp and upon the sea-shore ; toward the end it removes to Troy.

BOOK II.

ALL night in sleep repos'd the other Gods,
And helmèd warriors ; but the eyes of Jove
Sweet slumber held not, pondering in his mind
How to avenge Achilles' cause, and pour
Destructive slaughter on the Grecian host. 5
Thus as he mus'd, the wisest course appear'd
By a deluding vision to mislead
The son of Atreus ; and with wingèd words
Thus to a phantom form he gave command :
“ Hie thee, deluding Vision, to the camp 10
And ships of Greece, to Agamemnon's tent ;
There, changing nought, as I command thee, speak.
Bid that he arm in haste the long-hair'd Greeks
To combat ; for the wide-built streets of Troy
He now may capture ; since th' immortal Gods 15
Watch over her no longer ; all are gain'd
By Juno's pray'rs ; and woes impend o'er Troy.”

He said : the Vision heard, and straight obey'd :
Swiftly he sped, and reached the Grecian ships,
And sought the son of Atreus ; him he found 20
Within his tent, wrapped in ambrosial sleep ;
Above his head he stood, like Neleus' son,
Nestor, whom Agamemnon rev'renc'd most
Of all the Elders ; in his likeness cloth'd
Thus spoke the heav'nly Vision ; " Sleep'st thou, son
Of Atreus, valiant warrior, horseman bold ? 26
To sleep all night but ill becomes a chief,
Charg'd with the public weal, and cares of state.
Hear now the words I bear ; to thee I come
A messenger from Jove, who from on high 30
Looks down on thee with eyes of pitying love.
He bids thee arm in haste the long-hair'd Greeks
To combat ; since the wide-built streets of Troy
Thou now mayst capture ; for th' immortal Gods
Watch over her no longer ; all are gain'd 35
By Juno's ^y pray'rs ; and woes impend o'er Troy.
Bear this in mind ; and when from sleep arous'd
Let not my words from thy remembrance fade."
This said, he vanish'd ; and the monarch left,

Inspir'd with thoughts which ne'er should come to pass.

For in that day he vainly hop'd to take 41

The town of Priam ; ignorant what Jove

Design'd in secret, or what woes, what groans,

What lengthen'd labours in the stubborn fight,

Were yet for Trojans and for Greeks in store. 45

He woke from sleep ; but o'er his senses spread

Dwelt still the heavenly voice ; he sat upright ;

He donn'd his vest of texture fine, new-wrought,

Then o'er it threw his ample robe, and bound

His sandals fair around his well-turn'd feet ; 50

And o'er his shoulders flung his sword, adorn'd

With silver studs ; and bearing in his hand

His royal staff, ancestral, to the ships

Where lay the brass-clad warriors, bent his way.

x Aurora now was rising up the steep 55

Of great Olympus, to th' immortal Gods

Pure light diffusing ; when Atrides bade

The clear-voic'd heralds to th' Assembly call

The gen'ral host ; they gave the word, and straight

From ev'ry quarter throng'd the eager crowd. 60

But first, of all the Elders, by the side

Of Nestor's ship, the aged Pylian chief,
A secret conclave Agamemnon call'd ;
And, prudent, thus the chosen few address'd :
“ Hear me, my friends ! In the still hours of night 65
I saw a heav'nly Vision in my sleep :
Most like it seemed in stature, form, and face
To rev'rend Nestor ; at my head it stood,
And with these words address'd me—‘ Sleep'st thou, son
Of Atreus, valiant warrior, horseman bold ? 70
To sleep all night but ill becomes a chief,
Charg'd with the public weal, and cares of state.
Hear now the words I bear : to thee I come
A messenger from Jove, who from on high
Looks down on thee with eyes of pitying love. 75
He bids thee arm in haste the long-hair'd Greeks
To combat : since the wide-built streets of Troy
Thou now may'st capture ; for th' immortal Gods
Watch over her no longer : all are gain'd
By Juno's pray'rs, and woes impend o'er Troy. 80
Bear thou my words in mind.’ Thus as he spoke
He vanish'd ; and sweet sleep forsook mine eyes.
Seek we then straight to arm the sons of Greece :

But first, as is our wont, myself will prove

The spirit of the army ; and suggest 85

Their homeward voyage ; ye, throughout the camp

Restore their courage, and restrain from flight.”

Thus having said, he sat ; and next arose

Nestor, the chief of Pylos' sandy shore,

Who thus with prudent speech replied, and said : 90

“O friends, the chiefs and councillors of Greece,

If any other had this Vision seen,

We should have deem'd it false, and laugh'd to scorn

The idle tale ; but now it hath appear'd,

Of all our army, to the foremost man : 95

Seek we then straight to arm the sons of Greece."

He said, and from the council led the way.

Uprose the sceptred monarchs, and obey'd

Their leader's call, and round them throng'd the crowd.

As swarms of bees, that pour in ceaseless stream 100

From out the crevice of some hollow rock,

Now clust'ring, and anon 'mid vernal flow'rs,

Some here, some there, in busy numbers fly ;

So to th' Assembly from their tents and ships 104

The countless tribes came thronging ; in their midst,

By Jove enkindled, Rumour urged them on.
Great was the din ; and as the mighty mass
Sat down, the solid earth beneath them groan'd ;
Nine heralds rais'd their voices loud, to quell
The storm of tongues, and bade the noisy crowd 110
Be still, and listen to the Heav'n-born Kings.
At length they all were seated, and awhile
Their clamours sank to silence ; then uprose
The monarch Agamemnon, in his hand
His royal staff, the work of Vulcan's art ; 115
Which Vulcan to the son of Saturn gave ;
To Hermes he, the heav'nly messenger ;
Hermes to Pelops, matchless charioteer ;
Pelops to Atreus ; Atreus at his death
Bequeath'd it to Thyestes, wealthy Lord 120
Of num'rous herds ; to Agamemnon last
Thyestes left it ; token of his sway
O'er all the Argive coast, and neighbouring isles.
On this the monarch leant, as thus he spoke :
“ Friends, Grecian Heroes, Ministers of Mars ! 125
Grievous, and all unlook'd for, is the blow
Which Jove hath dealt me ; by his promise led

I hop'd to raze the strong-built walls of Troy,
And home return in safety ; but it seems
He falsifies his word, and bids me now 130
Return to Argos, frustrate of my hope,
Dishonour'd, and with grievous loss of men.
Such now appears th' o'er-ruling sov'reign will
Of Saturn's son ; who oft hath sunk the heads
Of many a lofty city in the dust, 135
And yet will sink ; for mighty is his hand.
'Tis shame indeed that future days should hear
How such a force as ours, so great, so brave,
Hath thus been baffled, fighting, as we do,
'Gainst numbers far inferior to our own, 140
And see no end of all our warlike toil.
For should we choose, on terms of plighted truce,
Trojans and Greeks, to number our array ;
Of Trojans, all that dwell within the town,
And we, by tens disposed, to every ten, 145
To crown our cups, one Trojan should assign,
Full many a ten no cupbearer would find :
So far the sons of Greece outnumber all

That dwell within the town ; but to their aid
Bold warriors come from all the cities round, 150
Who greatly harass me, and render vain
My hope to storm the strong-built walls of Troy.
Already now nine weary years have pass'd ;
The timbers of our ships are all decay'd,
The cordage rotted ; in our homes the while 155
Our wives and helpless children sit, in vain
Expecting our return ; and still the work,
For which we hither came, remains undone.
Hear then my counsel ; let us all agree
Home to direct our course, since here in vain 160
We strive to take the well-built walls of Troy."

Thus as he spoke, the crowd, that had not heard
The secret council, by his words was mov'd ;
So sway'd and heav'd the multitude, as when
O'er the vast billows of th' Icarian sea 165
Eurus and Notus from the clouds of Heav'n
Pour forth their fury ; or as some deep field
Of wavy corn, when sweeping o'er the plain
The ruffling west wind sways the bending ears ; 169
So was th' Assembly stirr'd ; and tow'rd the ships

With clam'rous joy they rush'd ; beneath their feet
Rose clouds of dust, while one to other call'd
To seize the ships and drag them to the main.
They clear'd the channels, and with shouts of "home"
That rose to Heav'n, they knock'd the shores away.
Then had the Greeks in shameful flight withdrawn,
Had Juno not to Pallas thus appeal'd : 177
" Oh Heav'n ! brave child of ægis-bearing Jove,
Shall thus the Greeks, in ignominious flight,
O'er the wide sea their homeward course pursue,
And as a trophy to the sons of Troy 181
The Argive Helen leave, on whose account,
Far from their home, so many valiant Greeks
Have cast their lives away ? Go quickly thou
Amid the brass-clad Greeks, and man by man 185
Address with words persuasive, nor permit
To launch their well-trimm'd vessels on the deep."

She said, nor did Minerva not obey,
But swift descending from Olympus' heights
With rapid flight she reach'd the Grecian ships. 190

✓ Laertes' son, in council sage as Jove
Ulysses
There found she standing ; he no hand had laid

On his dark vessel, for with bitter grief
His heart was filled; the blue-ey'd Maid approach'd,
And thus address'd him: "Great Laertes' son, 195
Ulysses, sage in council, can it be
That you, the men of Greece, embarking thus
On your swift ships, in ignominious flight,
O'er the wide sea will take your homeward way,
And as a trophy to the sons of Troy 200
The Argive Helen leave, on whose account
Far from their homes so many valiant Greeks
Have cast their lives away? Go quickly thou
Among the multitude, and man by man
Address with words persuasive, nor permit 205
To launch their well-trimm'd vessels on the deep."

She said; the heav'nly voice Ulysses knew;
Straight, springing to the course, he cast aside,
And to Eurybates of Ithaca,
His herald and attendant, threw his robe; 210
Then to Atrides hasten'd, and by him
Arm'd with his royal staff ancestral, pass'd
With rapid step amid the ships of Greece.
Each King or leader whom he found he thus

With cheering words encourag'd and restrain'd : 215

“ O gallant friend, 'tis not for thee to yield,

Like meaner men, to panic ; but thyself

Sit quiet, and the common herd restrain.

Thou know'st not yet Atrides' secret mind :

He tries us now, and may reprove us soon. 220

His words in council reach'd not all our ears :

See that he work us not some ill ; for fierce

His anger ; and the Lord of counsel, Jove,

From whom proceeds all honour, loves him well.”

But of the common herd whome'er he found 225

Clam'ring, he check'd with staff and threat'ning words :

“ Good friend, keep still, and hear what others say,

Thy betters far : for thou art good for nought,

Of small account in council or in fight.

All are not sovereigns here : ill fares the state 230

Where many masters rule ; let one be Lord,

One King supreme ; to whom wise Saturn's son

In token of his sov'reign power hath giv'n

The sceptre's sway and ministry of law.” 234

Such were his words, as through the ranks he pass'd :

They from the vessels and the tents again

Throng'd to th' Assembly, with such rush of sound,
As when the many-dashing ocean's wave
Breaks on the shore, and foams the frothing sea.

The others all were settled in their seats : 240

Only Thersites, with unmeasur'd words,
Of which he had good store, to rate the chiefs,
Not over-seemly, but wherewith he thought
To move the crowd to laughter, brawl'd aloud.

The ugliest man was he who came to Troy : 245

With squinting eyes, and one distorted foot,
His shoulders round, and buried in his breast
His narrow head, with scanty growth of hair.

Against Achilles and Ulysses most

His hate was turn'd ; on them his venom pour'd ; 250

Anon, at Agamemnon's self he launch'd

His loud-tongued ribaldry ; 'gainst him he knew
Incensed the public mind ; and bawling loud,*

With scurril words, he thus address'd the King : 254

“ What more, thou son of Atreus, would'st thou have ?

Thy tents are full of brass ; and in those tents

Many fair women, whom, from all the spoil,

We Greeks, whene'er some wealthy town we take,

* See note on page 84.

Choose first of all, and set apart for thee.

Or dost thou thirst for gold, which here perchance

Some Trojan brings, the ransom of his son 261

Captur'd by me, or by some other Greek ?

Or some new girl, to gratify thy lust,

Kept for thyself apart ? a leader, thou

Shouldst not to evil lead the sons of Greece. 265

Ye slaves ! ye coward souls ! Women of Greece !

I will not call you men ! why go we not

Home with our ships, and leave this mighty chief

To gloat upon his treasures, and find out

Whether in truth he need our aid, or no ; 270

Who on Achilles, his superior far,

Foul scorn hath cast, and robb'd him of his prize,

Which for himself he keeps ? Achilles, sure,

Is not intemperate, but mild of mood ;

Else, Atreus' son, this insult were thy last." 275

On Agamemnon, leader of the host,

With words like these Thersites pour'd his hate ;

But straight Ulysses at his side appear'd,

And spoke, with scornful glance, in stern rebuke :

"Thou babbling fool, Thersites, prompt of speech,

Restrain thy tongue, nor singly thus presume 281
The Kings to slander ; thou, the meanest far
Of all that with the Atridæ came to Troy.
Ill it beseems, that such an one as thou
Should lift thy voice against the Kings, and rail 285
With scurril ribaldry, and prate of home.
How these affairs may end, we know not yet ;
Nor how, or well or ill, we may return.
Cease then against Atrides, King of men,
To pour thy spite, for that the valiant Greeks 290
To him, despite thy railing, as of right
An ample portion of the spoils assign.
But this I tell thee, and will make it good,
If e'er I find thee play the fool, as now,
Then may these shoulders cease this head to bear, 295
And may my son Telemachus no more
Own me his father, if I strip not off
Thy mantle and thy garments, aye, expose
Thy nakedness, and flog thee to the ships
Howling, and scourg'd with ignominious stripes." 300
Thus as he spoke, upon Thersites' neck
And back came down his heavy staff ; the wretch

Shrank from the blow, and scalding tears let fall.
Where struck the golden-studded staff, appear'd
A bloody weal : Thersites quail'd, and down, 305
Quiv'ring with pain, he sat, and wip'd away,
With horrible grimace, the trickling tears.
The Greeks, despite their anger, laugh'd aloud,
And one to other said, " Good faith, of all
The many works Ulysses well hath done, 310
Wise in the council, foremost in the fight,
He ne'er hath done a better, than when now
He makes this scurril babbler hold his peace.
Methinks his headstrong spirit will not soon
Lead him again to vilify the Kings." 315

Thus spoke the gen'ral voice : but, staff in hand,
Ulysses rose ; Minerva by his side,
In likeness of a herald, bade the crowd
Keep silence, that the Greeks, from first to last,
Might hear his words, and ponder his advice. 320
He thus with prudent phrase his speech began :
" Great son of Atreus, on thy name, O King,
Throughout the world will foul reproach be cast,
If Greeks forget their promise, nor make good

The vow they took to thee, when hitherward 325
We sailed from Argos' grassy plains, to raze,
Ere our return, the well-built walls of Troy.
But now, like helpless widows, or like babes,
They mourn their cruel fate, and pine for home.
'Tis hard indeed defeated to return ; 330
The seaman murmurs, if from wife and home,
Ev'n for one month, his well-found bark be stay'd,
Toss'd by the wintry blasts and stormy sea ;
But us the ninth revolving year beholds
Still ling'ring here : I cannot therefore blame 335
Our valiant Greeks, if by the ships I hear
Their murmurs ; yet 'twere surely worst of all
Long to remain, and bootless to return.
Bear up, my friends, remain awhile, and see
If Calchas truly prophesy, or no. 340
For this ye all have seen, and can yourselves
Bear witness, all who yet are spar'd by fate,
Not long ago, when ships of Greece were met
At Aulis, charg'd with evil freight for Troy,
And we, around a fountain, to the Gods 345
Our altars rear'd, with faultless hecatombs,

Near a fair plane-tree, where bright water flow'd,
Behold a wonder ! by Olympian Jove
Sent forth to light, a snake, with burnish'd scales,
Of aspect fearful, issuing from beneath 350

The altars, glided to the plane-tree straight.
There, on the topmost bough, beneath the leaves
Cow'ring, a sparrow's callow nestlings lay ;
Eight fledglings, and the parent bird the ninth.
All the eight nestlings, utt'ring piercing cries, 355
The snake devour'd ; and as the mother flew,
Lamenting o'er her offspring, round and round,
Uncoiling, caught her, shrieking, by the wing.
Then, when the sparrow's nestlings and herself
The snake had swallowed, by the God, who first 360
Sent him to light, a miracle was wrought :

x For Jove, the deep-designing Saturn's son,
Turn'd him to stone ; we stood, and wond'ring gaz'd.
But when this prodigy befell our rites,
Calchas, inspir'd of Heaven, took up his speech : 365
' Ye long-haired sons of Greece, why stand ye thus
In mute amaze ? to us Olympian Jove,
To whom be endless praise, vouchsafes this sign,

Late sent, of late fulfilment : as ye saw
The snake devour the sparrow and her young, 370
Eight nestlings, and the parent bird the ninth :
So, for so many years, are we condemn'd
To wage a fruitless war ; but in the tenth
The wide-built city shall at last be ours.'
Thus he foretold, and now the time is come. 375
Here then, ye well-greav'd Greeks, let all remain,
Till Priam's wealthy city be our own."

He said, and loudly cheer'd the Greeks—and loud
From all the hollow ships came back the cheers—
In admiration of Ulysses' speech. 380
Gerenian Nestor next took up the word :
"Like children, Grecian warriors, ye debate ;
Like babes to whom unknown are feats of arms.
Where then are now our solemn covenants,
Our plighted oaths ? Go, cast we to the fire 385
Our counsels held, our warriors' plans matur'd,
Our absolute pledges, and our hand-plight giv'n,
In which our trust was placed ; since thus in vain
In words we wrangle, and how long soe'er
We here remain, solution none we find. 390

Atrides, thou, as is thy wont, maintain
Unchang'd thy counsel ; for the stubborn fight
Array the Greeks ; and let perdition seize
Those few, those two or three among the host,
Who hold their separate counsel—(not on them 395
Depends the issue !)—rather than return
To Argos, ere we prove if Jove indeed
Will falsify his promis'd word, or no.
For well I ween, that on the day when first
We Grecians hitherward our course address'd, 400
To Troy the messengers of blood and death,
Th' o'er-ruling son of Saturn, on our right
His lightning flashing, with auspicious sign
Assur'd us of his favour ; let not then 404
The thoughts of home be breath'd, ere Trojan wives
Given to our warriors, retribution pay
For wrongs by us, in Helen's cause, sustain'd.
But whoso longs, if such an one there be,
To make his homeward voyage, let him take
His well-rigg'd bark, and go ; before the rest 410
To meet the doom of death ! But thou, O King !
Be well advis'd thyself, and others lead

By wholesome counsel ; for the words I speak
Are not to be despis'd ; by tribes and clans,
O Agamemnon ! range thy troops, that so 415
Tribe may to tribe give aid, and clan to clan.
If thus thou do, and Greeks thy words obey,
Then shalt thou see, of chiefs and troops alike,
The good and bad ; for on their own behoof
They all shall fight ; and if thou fail, shalt know 420
Whether thy failure be of Heav'n's decree,
Or man's default and ignorance of war."

To whom the monarch Agamemnon thus :
" Father, in council, of the sons of Greece,
None can compare with thee ; and would to Jove 425
To Pallas, and Apollo, at my side
I had but ten such counsellors as thee !
Then soon should royal Priam's city fall,
Tak'n and destroy'd by our victorious hands.
But now on me hath ægis-bearing Jove, 430
The son of Saturn, fruitless toil impos'd,
And hurtful quarrels ; for in wordy war
About a girl, Achilles and myself
Engag'd ; and I, alas ! the strife began :

Could we be friends again, delay were none, 435
How short soe'er, of Ilium's final doom.
But now to breakfast, ere we wage the fight.
Each sharpen well his spear, his shield prepare,
Each to his fiery steeds their forage give,
Each look his chariot o'er, that through the day 440
We may unwearied stem the tide of war ;
For respite none, how short soe'er, shall be
Till night shall bid the storm of battle cease.
With sweat shall reek upon each warrior's breast
The leathern belt beneath the cov'ring shield ; 445
And hands shall ache that wield the pond'rous spear :
With sweat shall reek the fiery steeds that draw
Each warrior's car ; but whomsoe'er I find
Loit'ring beside the beakèd ships, for him 449
'Twere hard to 'scape the vultures and the dogs."

He said ; and from th' applauding ranks of Greece
Rose a loud sound, as when the ocean wave,
Driv'n by the south wind on some lofty beach,
Dashes against a prominent crag, expos'd
To blasts from every storm that roars around. 455
Uprising then, and through the camp dispers'd

They took their sev'ral ways, and by their tents
The fires they lighted, and the meal prepar'd ;
And each to some one of the Immortal Gods
His off'ring made, that in the coming fight 460
He might escape the bitter doom of death.
But to the o'erruling son of Saturn, Jove,
A sturdy ox, well-fatten'd, five years old,
Atreides slew ; and to the banquet call'd
The aged chiefs and councillors of Greece ; 465
Nestor the first, the King Idomeneus,
The two Ajaces next, and Tydeus' son,
Ulysses sixth, as Jove in council sage.
But uninvited Meneläus came,
Knowing what cares upon his brother press'd. 470
Around the ox they stood, and on his head
The salt cake sprinkled ; then amid them all
The monarch Agamemnon pray'd aloud :
“ Most great, most glorious Jove ! who dwell'st on high,
In clouds and darkness veil'd, grant Thou that ere 475
This sun shall set, and night o'erspread the earth,
I may the haughty walls of Priam's house
Lay prostrate in the dust ; and burn with fire

His lofty gates ; and strip from Hector's breast
His sword-rent tunic, while around his corpse 480
Many brave comrades, prostrate, bite the dust."

Thus he ; but Saturn's son his pray'r denied ;
Receiv'd his off'rings, but his toils increas'd.
Their pray'rs concluded, and the salt cake strowed
Upon the victim's head, they drew him back, 485
And slew, and flay'd ; then cutting from the thighs
The choicest pieces, and in double layers
O'erspreading them with fat, above them plac'd
The due meat-off'rings ; these they burnt with logs
Of leafless timber ; and the inward parts, 490
First to be tasted, o'er the fire they held.
The thighs consum'd with fire, the inward parts
They tasted first ; the rest upon the spits
Roasted with care, and from the fire withdrew.
Their labours ended, and the feast prepar'd, 495
They shared the social meal, nor lacked there aught.
The rage of thirst and hunger satisfied,
Gerenian Nestor thus his speech began :
"Most mighty Agamemnon, King of men,
Great Atreus' son, no longer let us pause, 500

The work delaying which the pow'rs of Heav'n
Have trusted to our hands ; do thou forthwith
Bid that the heralds proclamation make,
And summon through the camp the brass-clad Greeks ;
While, in a body, through the wide-spread ranks 505
We pass, and stimulate their warlike zeal."

He said ; and Agamemnon, King of men,
Obedient to his counsel, gave command
That to the war the clear-voic'd heralds call
The long-hair'd Greeks : they gave the word, and straight
From ev'ry quarter throug'd the eager crowd. 511
The Heav'n-born Kings, encircling Atreus' son,
The troops inspected : Pallas, blue-ey'd Maid,
Before the chiefs her glorious ægis bore,
By time untouch'd, immortal : all around 515
A hundred tassels hung, rare works of art,
All gold, each one a hundred oxen's price.
With this the Goddess pass'd along the ranks,
Exciting all ; and fix'd in every breast
The firm resolve to wage unwearied war ; 520
And dearer to their hearts than thoughts of home
Or wish'd return, became the battle-field.

As when a wasting fire, on mountain tops,
Hath seized the blazing woods, afar is seen
The glaring light ; so, as they mov'd, to Heav'n 525
Flash'd the bright glitter of their burnish'd arms.

As when a num'rous flock of birds, or geese,
Or cranes, or long-neck'd swans, on Asian mead,
Beside Cäyster's stream, now here, now there,
Disporting, ply their wings ; then settle down 530
With clam'rous noise, that all the mead resounds ;
So to Scamander's plain, from tents and ships,
Pour'd forth the countless tribes ; the firm earth groan'd
Beneath the tramp of steeds and armèd men.
Upon Scamander's flow'ry mead they stood, 535
Unnumber'd as the vernal leaves and flow'rs.

Or as the multitudinous swarms of flies,
That round the cattle-sheds in spring-tide pour,
While the warm milk is frothing in the pail :
So numberless upon the plain, array'd 540
For Troy's destruction, stood the long-hair'd Greeks.
And as experienc'd goat-herds, when their flocks
Are mingled in the pasture, portion out
Their sev'ral charges, so the chiefs array'd

Their squadrons for the fight ; while in the midst 545
The mighty monarch Agamemnon mov'd :
His eye, and lofty brow, the counterpart
Of Jove, the Lord of thunder ; in his girth
Another Mars, with Neptune's ample chest.
As 'mid the thronging heifers in a herd 550
Stands, proudly eminent, the lordly bull ;
So, by Jove's will, stood eminent that day,
'Mid many heroes, Atreus' godlike son.

Say now, ye Nine, who on Olympus dwell,
Muses (for ye are Goddesses, and ye 555
Were present, and know all things : we ourselves
But hear from Rumour's voice, and nothing know),
Who were the chiefs and mighty Lords of Greece.
But should I seek the multitude to name,
Not if ten tongues were mine, ten mouths to speak,
Voice inexhaustible, and heart of brass, 561
Should I succeed, unless, Olympian maids,
The progeny of ægis-bearing Jove,
Ye should their names record, who came to Troy.
The chiefs, and all the ships, I now rehearse. 565
Bœotia's troops by Peneleus were led,

And Lëitus, and Prothöenor bold,
Arcesilas and Clonius : they who dwelt
In Hyria, and on Aulis' rocky coast,
Scœnus, and Scolus, and the highland range 570
Of Etœonus ; in Thespeia's vale,
Graia, and Mycalessus' wide-spread plains :
And who in Harma and Eilesium dwelt,
And in Erythræ, and in Eleon,
Hyle, and Peteon, and Ocalea, 575
In Copæ, and in Medeon's well-built fort,
Eutresis, Thisbe's dove-frequented woods,
And Coronea, and the grassy meads
Of Haliartus ; and Plataea's plain,
In Glissa, and the foot of Lower Thebes, 580
And in Anchestus, Neptune's sacred grove ;
And who in viny-cluster'd Arne dwelt,
And in Mideia, and the lovely site
Of Nissa, and Anthedon's utmost bounds.
With these came fifty vessels ; and in each 585
Were six score youths, Bœotia's noblest flow'r.

Who in Aspledon dwelt, and in Minyas' realm
Orchomenus, two sons of Mars obey'd,

✓ Ascalaphus, and bold Ialmenus ;
 In Actor's house, the son of Azeus, born 590
 Of fair Astyoche, a maiden pure,
 Till in the upper chamber, where she slept,
 Stout Mars by stealth her virgin bed assail'd :
 Of these came thirty ships in order due.

By Schedius and Epistrophus, the sons 595
 Of great Iphitus, son of Naubolus,
 Were led the Phocian forces ; these were they
 Who dwelt in Cyparissus, and the rock
 Of Python, and on Crissa's lovely plain ;
 And who in Daulis, and in Panope, 600
 Anemorea and Hyampolis,
 And by Cephisus' sacred waters dwelt,
 Or in Lilæa, by Cephisus' springs.

In their command came forty dark-ribb'd ships
 These were the leaders of the Phocian bands, 605
 And on Bœotia's left their camp was pitch'd.

Ajax, Oileus' son, the Locrians led ;
 Swift-footed, less than Ajax Telamon,
 Of stature low, with linen breastplate arm'd :
 But skill'd to throw the spear o'er all who dwell 610

In Hellas or Achaia : these were they
From Cynos, Opus, and Calliarus,
Bessa, and Scarpha, and Augæa fair,
Tarpha, and Thronium, by Boagrius' stream.

Him from beyond Eubœa's sacred isle, 615
Of Locrians follow'd forty dark-ribb'd ships.

Breathing firm ~~courage~~ high, th' Abantian host,
Who from Eubœa and from Chalcis came,
Or who in vine-clad Histiaëa dwelt,
Eretria, and Cerinthus maritime, 620
And who the lofty fort of Dium held,
And in Carystus and in Styra dwelt :

These Elephenor led, true plant of Mars,
Chalcodon's son, the brave Abantian chief.
Him, all conspicuous with their long black hair, 625
The bold Abantians follow'd : spearmen skill'd,
Who through the foemen's breastplates knew full well,
Held in firm grasp, to drive the ashen spear.
In his command came forty dark-ribb'd ships.

Those who in Athens' well-built city dwelt, 630
The noble-soul'd Erectheus' heritage ;
Child of the fertile soil, by Pallas rear'd,

Daughter of Jove, who him in Athens plac'd
In her own wealthy temple; there with blood
Of bulls and lambs, at each revolving year, 635
The youths of Athens do him sacrifice;
These by Menestheus, Petëus' son, were led.
With him might none of mortal men compare,
In order due of battle to array
Chariots and buckler'd men; Nestor alone 640
Perchance might rival him, his elder far.
In his command came fifty dark-ribb'd ships.

Twelve ships from Salamis with Ajax came,
And they beside th' Athenian troops were rang'd. 644

Those who from Argos, and the well-wall'd town
Of Tyrins came, and from Hermione,
And Asine, deep-bosom'd in the bay;
And from Trœzene and Eione,
And vine-clad Epidaurus; and the youths
Who dwelt in Mases, and Ægina's isle; 650
O'er all of these the valiant Diomed
Held rule; and Sthenelus, th' illustrious son
Of far-fam'd Capaneus; with these, the third,
A godlike warrior came, Euryalus,

Son of Mæcistheus, Taläus' royal son. 655

Supreme o'er all was valiant Diomed.

In their command came eighty dark-ribb'd ships.

Who in Mycenæ's well-built fortress dwelt,

And wealthy Corinth, and Cleone fair,

Orneia, and divine Aræthure, 660

And Sicyon, where Adrastus reign'd of old,

And Gonoessa's promontory steep,

And Hyperesia, and Pellene's rock ;

In Ægium, and the scatter'd towns that lie

Along the beach, and wide-spread Helice ; 665

Of these a hundred ships obey'd the rule

Of mighty Agamemnon, Atreus' son.

The largest and the bravest host was his ;

And he himself, in dazzling armour clad,

O'er all the heroes proudly eminent, 670

Went forth exulting in his high estate,

Lord of the largest host, and chief of chiefs.

Those who in Lacedæmon's lowland plains,

And who in Sparta and in Phare dwelt,

And who on Messa's dove-frequented cliffs, 675

Bryseia, and Ægæa's lovely vale,

And in Amyclæ, and the sea-bathed fort
 Of Helos, Cetylus and Laas dwelt ;
 His valiant brother Menelæus led,
 With sixty ships; but ranged apart they lay. 680
 Their chief, himself in martial ardour bold,
 Inspiring others, fill'd with fierce desire
 The rape of Helen and his wrongs to avenge.

They who in Pylos and Arene dwelt,
 And Thyrum, by the ford of Alpheus' stream, 685
 In Cyparissus and Amphigene,
 Pteleon, and lofty Cæpus' well-built fort,
 Helos, and Dorium, where the Muses met,
 And put to silence Thracian Thamyris,
 As from Cæchalia, from the royal house 690
 Of Eurytus he came ; he, over-bold,
 Boasted himself pre-eminent in song,
 Ev'n though the daughters of Olympian Jove,
 The Muses, were his rivals : they in wrath
 Him of his sight at once and pow'r of song 695
 Amerc'd, and bade his hand forget the lyre.
 These by Gerenian Nestor all were led,
 In fourscore ships and ten in order due.

They of Arcadia, and the realm that lies
Beneath Cyllene's mountain high, around 700
The tomb of Æpytus, a warrior race ;
The men of Pheneus and Orchomenus
In flocks abounding ; who in Ripa dwelt,
In Stratia, and Enispe's breezy height,
Or Tegea held, and sweet Mantinea, 705
Stymphalus and Parrhasia ; these were led
By Agapenor brave, Anchæus' son,
In sixty ships ; in each a num'rous crew
Of stout Arcadian youths, to war inur'd.
The ships, wherewith they crossed the dark-blue sea,
Were giv'n by Agamemnon, King of men, 711
The son of Atreus ; for th' Arcadian youth
Had ne'er to maritime pursuits been train'd.

Who in Buprasium and in Elis dwelt,
Far as Hyrmine, and th' extremest bounds 715
Of Myrsinus ; and all the realm that lies
Between Aleisium and the Olenian rock ;
These by four chiefs were led ; and ten swift ships,
By bold Epeians mann'd, each chief obey'd.
Amphimachus and Thalpius were the first, 720

Sons of two brothers, Cteatus the one,
The other Eurytus, to Actor born ;
Next Amarynceus' son, Dioreas bold ;
The fourth Polyxenus, the godlike son
Of Augeas' royal heir, Agasthenes. 725

They of Dulichium, and the sacred isles,
Th' Echinades, which face, from o'er the sea,
The coast of Elis, were by Meges led,
The son of Phyleus, dear to Jove, in arms
Valiant as Mars ; who, with his sire at feud, 730
Had left his home, and to Dulichium come :
In his command were forty dark-ribb'd ships.

Those who from warlike Cephalonia came,
And Ithaca, and leafy Neritus,
And Crocyleium ; rugged Ægilips, 735
And Samos, and Zacynthus, and the coast
Of the mainland with its opposing isles ;
These in twelve ships, with scarlet-painted bows,
Ulysses led, in council sage as Jove.

Thoas, Andraemon's son, th' Ætolians led ; 740
From Pleuron, and Pylone, Olenus,
Chalcis-by-sea, and rocky Calydon :

The race of Æneus was no more ; himself,
And fair-hair'd Meleager, both were dead :
Whence all Ætolia's rule on him was laid. 745
In his command came forty dark-ribb'd ships.

The King Idomeneus the Cretans led,
From Cnossus, and Gortyna's well-wall'd town,
Miletus, and Lycastus' white-stone cliffs,
Lycus, and Phæstus, Rhytium, and the rest 750
Whom Crete from all her hundred cities sent :
These all Idomeneus, a spearman skill'd,
Their King, commanded ; and Meriones,
In battle terrible as blood-stain'd Mars. 754

In their command came fourscore dark-ribb'd ships.

Valiant and tall, the son of Hercules,
Tlepolemus, nine vessels brought from Rhodes,
By gallant Rhodians mann'd, who tripartite
Were settled, and in Ialyssus dwelt,
In Lindus, and Cameirus' white-stone hills. 760
These all renown'd Tlepolemus obey'd,
Who to the might of Hercules was born
Of fair Astyoche ; his captive she,
When many a goodly town his arms had raz'd,

Was brought from Ephyra, by Selles' stream. 765
Rear'd in the royal house, Tlepolemus,
In early youth, his father's uncle slew,
A warrior once, but now in life's decline,
Lycimnius; then in haste a fleet he built,
Muster'd a num'rous host; and fled, by sea, 770
The threaten'd vengeance of the other sons
And grandsons of the might of Hercules.
Long wand'rings past, and toils and perils borne,
To Rhodes he came; his followers, by their tribes,
Three districts form'd; and so divided, dwelt, 775
Belov'd of Jove, the King of Gods and men,
Who show'r'd upon them boundless store of wealth.

Nireus three well-trimm'd ships from Syme brought;
Nireus, to Charops whom Aglaia bore;
Nireus, the goodliest man of all the Greeks, 780
Who came to Troy, save Peleus' matchless son:
But scant his fame, and few the troops he led.

Who in Nisyrus dwelt, and Carpathus,
And Cos, the fortress of Eurypylus,
And in the Casian and Calydnian Isles, 785
Were by Phidippus led, and Antiphus,

Two sons of Thessalus, Alcides' son ;
With them came thirty ships in order due.

Next those who in Pelasgian Argos dwelt,
And who in Alos, and in Alope, 790
Trachys, and Phthia, and in Hellas fam'd
For women fair ; of these, by various names,
Achaians, Myrmidons, Hellenes, known,
In fifty ships, Achilles was the chief.

But from the battle-strife these all abstain'd, 795
Since none there was to marshal their array.

For Peleus' godlike son, the swift of foot,
Lay idly in his tent, the loss resenting
Of Brises' fair-hair'd daughter ; whom himself
Had chosen, prize of all his warlike toil, 800

When he Lyrnessus and the walls of Thebes
O'erthrew, and Mynes and Epistrophus
Struck down, bold warriors both, Evenus' sons,
Selepius' royal heir ; for her in wrath,
He held aloof, but soon again to appear. 805

Those in the flow'ry plain of Pyrrhasus,
To Ceres dear, who dwelt ; in Phylace,
In Iton, rich in flocks, and, by the sea,

In Antron, and in Pteleon's grass-clad meads ;
These led Protesiläus, famed in arms, 810

While yet he liv'd ; now laid beneath the sod.

In Phylace were left his weeping wife,
And half-built house ; him, springing to the shore,
First of the Greeks, a Dardan warrior slew. 814

Nor were his troops, their leader though they mourn'd,
Left leaderless ; the post of high command
Podarces claim'd of right, true plant of Mars,
Ipheclus' son, the rich Phylacides ;

The brother of Protesiläus he,
Younger in years, nor equal in renown ; 820

Yet of a chief no want the forces felt,
Though much they mourn'd their valiant leader slain.
In his command came forty dark-ribb'd ships.

Those who from Pheræ came, beside the lake
Bœbeis, and who dwelt in Glaphyræ, 825

In Bœbe, and Iolcos' well-built fort,
These in eleven ships Eumelus led,
Whom Pelias' daughter, fairest of her race,
Divine Alcestis to Admetus bore.

Who in Methone and Thaumacia dwelt, 830

In Melibœa and Olizon's rock ;
These Philoctetes, skilful archer, led.
Sev'n ships were theirs, and ev'ry ship was mann'd
By fifty rowers, skilful archers all. 834
But he, their chief, was lying, rack'd with pain,
On Lemnos' sacred isle ; there left perforce
In torture from a venomous serpent's wound :
There he in anguish lay : nor long, ere Greeks
Of royal Philoctetes felt their need. 839
Yet were his troops, their leader though they mourn'd,
Not leaderless : Oïleus' bastard son,
Medon, of Rhene born, their ranks array'd.

Who in Œchalia, Eurytus' domain,
In Tricca, and in rough Ithome dwelt,
These Pòdalirius and Machaon led, 845
Two skilful leeches, Æsculapius' sons.
Of these came thirty ships in order due.

Who in Ormenium and Asterium dwelt,
By Hypereia's fount, and on the heights
Of Titanum's white peaks, of these was chief 850
Eurypylus, Euæmon's gallant son ;
In his command came forty dark-ribb'd ships.

Who in Argissa and Gyrtana dwelt,
Ortha, Elone, and the white-wall'd town
Of Oloösson, Polypoetes led ; 855
Son of Pirithöus, progeny of Jove,
A warrior bold ; Hippodamia fair
Him to Pirithöus bore, what time he slew
The shaggy Centaurs, and from Pelion's heights
For refuge 'mid the rude Æthices drove. 860
Nor he alone ; with him to Troy there came
A scion true of Mars, Leonteus, heir
Of nobly-born Coronus, Cæneus' son.
In their command came forty dark-ribb'd ships.
With two and twenty vessels Gouneus came 865
From Cythus ; he the Enienes led,
And the Peræbians' warlike tribes, and those
Who dwelt around Dodona's wintry heights,
Or till'd the soil upon the lovely banks
Of Titaresius, who to Peneus pours 870
The tribute of his clearly-flowing stream ;
Yet mingles not with Peneus' silver waves,
But on the surface floats like oil, his source
From Styx deriving, in whose awful name

Both Gods and men by holiest oaths are bound. 875

Magnesia's troops, who dwelt by Peneus' stream,
Or beneath Pelion's leafy-quiv'ring shades,
Swift-footed Prothöus led, Tenthredon's son ;
In his command came forty dark-ribb'd ships.

These were the leaders and the chiefs of Greece :
Say, Muse, of these, who with th' Atridæ came, 881
Horses and men, who claim'd the highest praise.
Of steeds, the bravest and the noblest far
Were those Eumelus drove, Admetus' son :
Both swift as birds, in age and colour match'd, 885
Alike in height, as measur'd o'er the back ;
Both mares, by Phœbus of the silver bow
Rear'd in Pieria, thunderbolts of war.

Of men, while yet Achilles held his wrath,
The mightiest far was Ajax Telamon. 890

For with Achilles, and the steeds that bore
The matchless son of Peleus, none might vie :
But 'mid his beakèd ocean-going ships
He lay, with Agamemnon, Atreus' son,
Indignant ; while his troops upon the beach 895
With quoits and jav'lins whil'd away the day.

And feats of archery ; their steeds the while
The lotus-grass and marsh-grown parsley cropp'd,
Each standing near their car ; the well-wrought cars
Lay all unheeded in the warriors' tents ; 900
They, inly pining for their godlike chief,
Roam'd listless up and down, nor join'd the fray.

Such was the host, which, like devouring fire,
O'erspread the land ; the earth beneath them groan'd :
As when the Lord of thunder, in his wrath, 905
The earth's foundations shakes, in Arimi,
Where, buried deep, 'tis said, Typhoeus lies ;
So at their coming, groan'd beneath their feet
The earth, as quickly o'er the plain they spread.

To Troy, sent down by ægis-bearing Jove, 910
With direful tidings storm-swift Iris came.
At Priam's gate, in solemn conclave met,
Were gather'd all the Trojans, young and old :
Swift Iris stood amidst them, and, the voice
Assuming of Polites, Priam's son, 915
The Trojan scout, who, trusting to his speed,
Was posted on the summit of the mound
Of ancient Æsuetes, there to watch

Till from their ships the Grecian troops should march ;
His voice assuming, thus the Goddess spoke : 920

“ Old man, as erst in peace, so still thou lov'st
The strife of words ; but fearful war is nigh.
Full many a host in line of battle rang'd
My eyes have seen ; but such a force as this,
So mighty and so vast, I ne'er beheld : 925
In number as the leaves, or as the sand,
Against the city o'er the plain they come.
Then, Hector, for to thee I chiefly speak,
This do ; thou know'st how various our allies,
Of diff'rent nations and discordant tongues : 930
Let each then those command o'er whom he reigns,
And his own countrymen in arms array.”
She said ; and Hector knew the voice divine,
And all, dissolv'd the council, flew to arms,
The gates were open'd wide ; forth pour'd the crowd,
Both foot and horse ; and loud the tumult rose. 936

Before the city stands a lofty mound,
In the mid plain, by open space enclos'd ;
Men call it Batiaea ; but the Gods
The tomb of swift Myrina ; muster'd there 940

The Trojans and Allies their troops array'd.

The mighty Hector of the glancing helm,
The son of Priam, led the Trojan host :
The largest and the bravest band were they,
Bold spearmen all, who follow'd him in arms. 945

+ Anchises' valiant son, Æneas, led
The Dardans ; him, 'mid Ida's jutting peaks,
Immortal Venus to Anchises bore,
A Goddess yielding to a mortal's love :
With him, well skill'd in war, Archilochus 950
And Acamas, Antenor's gallant sons.

Who in Zeleia dwelt, at Ida's foot,
Of Trojan race, a wealthy tribe, who drank
Of dark Æsepus' waters, these were led
By Pandarus, Lycaon's noble son, 955
Taught by Apollo's self to draw the bow.

Who from Adraste, and Apæsus' realm,
From Pityeia, and the lofty hill
Tereian came, with linen corslets girt,
Adrastus and Amphius led ; two sons 960
Of Merops of Percote ; deeply vers'd
Was he in propheey ; and from the war

Would fain have kept his sons ; but they, by fate,
Doom'd to impending death, his caution scorn'd.

Those who from Practium and Percote came, 965
And who in Sestos and Abydos dwelt,
And in Arisba fair ; those Asius led,
The son of Hyrtacus, of heroes chief ;
Asius the son of Hyrtacus, who came
From fair Arisba, borne by fiery steeds 970
Of matchless size and strength, from Selles' stream.

Hippothöus led the bold Pelasgian tribes,
Who dwell in rich Larissa's fertile soil,
Hippothöus and Pylæus, Lethus' sons,
The son of Teutamus, Pelasgian chief. 975

The Thracians, by fast-flowing Hellespont
Encompass'd, Acamas and Peiröus brave ;
The spear-skill'd Cicones Euphemus led,
Son of Træzenus, Cæus' highborn son.

From distant Amydon Pyræemes brought 980
The Pæon archers from broad Axius' banks ;
Axius, the brightest stream on earth that flows.

The hairy strength of great Pylæmenes
The Paphlagonians led from Eneti

✕ (Whence first appear'd the stubborn race of mules),
Who in Cytorus and in Sesamum, 986
And round Parthenius' waters had their home ;
Who dwelt in Cromne, and Ægialus,
And on the lofty Erythnian rock.

By Hodius and Epistrophus were brought 990
From distant Alybe, the wealthy source
Of silver ore, the Alizonian bands.

Chromis the Mysians led, and Ennomus ;
A skilful augur, but his augury
From gloomy death to save him nought avail'd ; 995
Slain by the son of Peleus, in the stream,
Where many another Trojan felt his arm.

From far Ascania's lake, with Phoreys join'd,
The godlike presence of Ascanius brought
The Phrygians, dauntless in the standing fight. 1000

From Lydia came Pylæmenes' two sons,
Born of the lake Gygeian ; Antiphus,
And Mesthles ; these Mæonia's forces led,
Who dwelt around the foot of Tmolus' hill.

In charge of Nastes came the Carian troops, 1005
Of barbarous speech ; who in Miletus dwelt,

And in the dense entangled forest shade
Of Phthira's hill, and on the lofty ridge
Of Mycale, and by Mæander's stream ;
These came with Nastes and Amphimacus ; 1010
Amphimacus and Nastes, Nomion's sons ;
With childish folly to the war he came,
Laden with store of gold ; yet nought avail'd
His gold to save him from the doom of death ;
Slain by the son of Peleus in the stream ; 1015
And all his wealth Achilles bore away.

Sarpedon last, and valiant Glaucus led
The Lycian bands, from distant Lycia's shore,
Beside the banks of Xanthus' eddying stream. 1019

NOTE.

Line 253.—The text of the original leaves it somewhat in doubt whether the anger of the Greeks were directed against Thersites or Agamemnon. I believe the preponderance of authority, ancient and modern, is in favour of the former interpretation ; but the latter is not without the support of some eminent scholars, and after much consideration I have been induced to adopt it. The original represents the Greeks as filled with anger *and resentment* against *some one*. Thersites was an object of general contempt, but he had done nothing to excite those feelings: indeed, apart from the offensiveness of his tone, the public sympathy was with him ; for the army was deeply dissatisfied, and resented the conduct of Agamemnon against Achilles, mainly perhaps because they had ceased to be enriched with the plunder of his successful forays (see i. 202, and ix. 387). This dissatisfaction and resentment are referred to by Neptune (xiii. 126), and by Agamemnon himself (xiv. 55). They had lately manifested themselves in the alacrity with which the whole army had caught at the insidious suggestion of abandoning the war ; and, just before the second assembly, Thersites avails himself of the general feeling, constituting himself the representative of a popular grievance, to vent his personal spite against Agamemnon. Ulysses saw how dangerous such a display might be at such a moment ; and artfully assuming (line 281) that the feeling was confined to Thersites alone (though in his subsequent speech, line 335, he admits and excuses the general discontent), he proceeds to cut short its expression by summary chastisement. Thereupon the fickle multitude, “despite their anger” (against Agamemnon), cannot refrain from laughing at the signal discomfiture of their self-constituted champion.

This view is very fully set forth in a note on the passage appended to a translation of the Iliad by Mr. Barter, published in 1859, but which I have only seen since the publication of this work.

ARGUMENT.

THE DUEL OF MENELAUS AND PARIS.

The armies being ready to engage, a single combat is agreed upon, between Meneläus and Paris (by the intervention of Hector) for the determination of the war. Iris is sent to call Helen to behold the fight. She leads her to the walls of Troy, where Priam sat with his counsellors, observing the Grecian leaders on the plain below, to whom Helen gives an account of the chief of them. The kings on either part take the solemn oath for the conditions of the combat. The duel ensues, wherein Paris being overcome, is snatched away in a cloud by Venus, and transported to his apartment. She then calls Helen from the walls, and brings the lovers together. Agamemnon, on the part of the Grecians, demands the restoration of Helen, and the performance of the articles.

The three-and-twentieth day still continues throughout this book. The scene is sometimes in the field before Troy, and sometimes in Troy itself.

BOOK III.

WHEN by their sev'ral chiefs the troops were rang'd,
With noise and clamour, as a flight of birds,
The men of Troy advanc'd ; as when the cranes,
Flying the wintry storms, send forth on high
Their dissonant clamours, while o'er the ocean stream 5
They steer their course, and on their pinions bear
Battle and death to the Pygmæan race.

On th' other side the Greeks in silence mov'd,
Breathing firm courage, bent on mutual aid.
As when the south wind o'er the mountain tops 10
Spreads a thick veil of mist, the shepherd's bane,
And friendly to the nightly thief alone,
That a stone's throw the range of vision bounds ;
So rose the dust-cloud, as in serried ranks
With rapid step they mov'd across the plain. 15
But when th' opposing forces near were met,
A panther's skin across his shoulders flung,

Arm'd with his bow and sword, in front of all
Advanc'd the godlike Paris ; in his hand
He pois'd two brass-tipp'd jav'lins, and defied 20
To mortal combat all the chiefs of Greece.

Him when the warlike Meneläus saw
With haughty strides advancing from the crowd ;
As when a lion, hunger-pinch'd, espies
Some mighty beast of chase, or antler'd stag, 25
Or mountain goat, and with exulting spring
Strikes down his prey, and on the carcase feeds,
Unscar'd by baying hounds and eager youths :
So Meneläus saw with fierce delight
The godlike Paris ; for he deem'd that now 30
His vengeance was at hand ; and from his car,
Arm'd as he was, he leap'd upon the plain.
But when the godlike Paris saw him spring
Defiant from the ranks, with quailing heart,
Back to his comrades' shelt'ring crowd he sprang, 35
In fear of death ; as when some trav'ller spies,
Coil'd in his path upon the mountain side,
A deadly snake, back he recoils in haste,
His limbs all trembling, and his cheek all pale ;

So back recoil'd, in fear of Atreus' son, 40
The godlike Paris 'mid the Trojan host.

To whom in stern rebuke thus Hector spoke :
" Thou wretched Paris, though in form so fair,
Thou slave of woman, manhood's counterfeit !
Would thou hadst ne'er been born, or died at least 45
Unwedded ; so 'twere better far for all,
Than thus to live a scandal and reproach.
Well may the long-hair'd Greeks triumphant boast,
Who think thee, from thine outward show, a chief
Among our warriors ; but thou hast in truth 50
Nor strength of mind, nor courage in the fight.
How was't that such as thou could e'er induce
A noble band, in ocean-going ships
To cross the main, with men of other lands
Mixing in amity, and bearing thence 55
A woman, fair of face, by marriage ties
Bound to a race of warriors ; to thy sire,
Thy state, thy people, cause of endless grief,
Of triumph to thy foes, contempt to thee !
Durst thou the warlike Menelæus meet, 60
Thou to thy cost shouldst learn the might of him

Whose bride thou didst not fear to bear away :
Then shouldst thou find of small avail thy lyre,
Or Venus' gifts of beauty and of grace,
Or, trampled in the dust, thy flowing hair. 65
But too forbearing are the men of Troy ;
Else for the ills that thou hast wrought the state,
Ere now thy body had in stone been cas'd."

To whom the godlike Paris thus replied :
" Hector, I needs must own thy censure just, 70
Nor without cause ; thy dauntless courage knows
Nor pause nor weariness ; but as an axe,
That in a strong man's hand, who fashions out
Some naval timber, with unbated edge
Cleaves the firm wood, and aids the striker's force ; 75
Ev'n so unwearied is thy warlike soul.
Yet blame not me for golden Venus' gifts :
The gifts of Heav'n are not to be despis'd,
Which Heav'n may give, but man could not command.
But if thou wilt that I should dare the fight, 80
Bid that the Trojans and the Grecians all
Be seated on the ground ; and in the midst
The warlike Meneläus and myself

Stand front to front, for Helen and the spoils
Of war to combat ; and whoe'er shall prove 85
The better man in conflict, let him bear
The woman and the spoils in triumph home ;
While ye, the rest, in peace and friendship sworn,
Shall still possess the fertile plains of Troy ;
And to their native Argos they return, 90
For noble steeds and lovely women fam'd."

He said, and Hector joy'd to hear his words :
Forth in the midst he stepp'd, and with his spear
Grasp'd by the middle, stay'd the Trojan ranks.
At him the long-haired Grecians bent their bows, 95
Prompt to assail with arrows and with stones ;
But loud the monarch Agamemnon's voice
Was heard ; " Hold, Argives, hold ! ye sons of Greece,
Shoot not ! for Hector of the glancing helm
Hath, as it seems, some message to impart." 100

He said ; they held their hands, and silent stood
Expectant, till to both thus Hector spoke :
" Hear now, ye Trojans, and ye well-greav'd Greeks,
The words of Paris, cause of all this war.
He asks through me that all the host of Troy 105

And Grecian warriors shall upon the ground
Lay down their glitt'ring arms ; while in the midst
The warlike Meneläus and himself
Stand front to front, for Helen and the spoils
Of war to combat ; and whoe'er shall prove 110
The better man in conflict, let him bear
The woman and the spoils in triumph home,
While we, the rest, firm peace and friendship swear."

Thus Hector spoke ; the rest in silence heard ;
But Meneläus, bold in fight, replied : 115
"Hear now my answer ; in this quarrel I
May claim the chiefest share ; and now I hope
Trojans and Greeks may see the final close
Of all the labours ye so long have borne
T' avenge my wrong, at Paris' hand sustain'd. 120
And of us two whiche'er is doom'd to death,
So let him die ! the rest, depart in peace.
Bring then two lambs, one white, the other black,
For Tellus and for Sol ; we on our part
Will bring another, for Saturnian Jove : 125
And let the majesty of Priam too
Appear, himself to consecrate our oaths,

(For reckless are his sons, and void of faith,)
That none Jove's oath may dare to violate.
For young men's spirits are too quickly stirr'd ; 130
But in the councils check'd by rev'rend age,
Alike are weigh'd the future and the past,
And for all int'rests due provision made."

He said, and Greeks and Trojans gladly heard,
In hopes of respite from the weary war. 135
They rang'd the cars in ranks ; and they themselves
Descending doff'd their arms, and laid them down
Close each by each, with narrow space between.
Two heralds to the city Hector sent
To bring the lambs, and aged Priam call ; 140
While Agamemnon to the hollow ships,
Their lamb to bring, in haste Talthybius sent :
He heard, and straight the monarch's voice obey'd.

Meantime to white-arm'd Helen Iris sped,
The heav'nly messenger : in form she seem'd 145
Her husband's sister, whom Antenor's son,
The valiant Helicaon had to wife,
Laodice, of Priam's daughters all
Loveliest of face : she in her chamber found

Her whom she sought : a mighty web she wove, 150
Of double woof and brilliant hues ; whereon
Was interwoven many a toilsome strife
Of Trojan warriors and of brass-clad Greeks,
For her encounter'd at the hand of Mars.

Beside her Iris stood, and thus she spoke : 155

“ Come, sister dear, and see the glorious deeds
Of Trojan warriors and of brass-clad Greeks.

They who erewhile, impatient for the fight,
Roll'd o'er the plain the woful tide of war,
Now silent sit, the storm of battle hush'd, 160

Reclining on their shields, their lances bright
Beside them reared ; while Paris in the midst
And warlike Menelæus, stand prepar'd

With the long spear for thee to fight ; thyself
The prize of conquest and the victor's wife.” 165

Thus as she spoke, in Helen's breast arose
Fond recollection of her former Lord,
Her home, and parents ; o'er her head she threw
A snowy veil ; and shedding tender tears
She issu'd forth, not unaccompanied ; 170
For with her went fair Æthra, Pittheus' child

And stag-ey'd Clymene, her maidens twain.

They quickly at the Scæan gate arriv'd.

Attending there on aged Priam, sat,

The Elders of the city ; Panthöus, 175

And Lampus, and Thymætes ; Clytius,

Bold Icetäon, and Ucalegon,

With sage Antenor, wise in council both :

All these were gather'd at the Scæan gate ;

By age exempt from war, but in discourse 180

Abundant, as the cricket, that on high

From topmost boughs of forest tree sends forth

His delicate music ; so on Ilium's tow'rs

Sat the sage chiefs and councillors of Troy.

Helen they saw, as to the tow'r she came ; 185

And " 'tis no marvel," one to other said,

" The valiant Trojans and the well-greav'd Greeks

For beauty such as this should long endure

The toils of war ; for goddess-like she seems ;

And yet, despite her beauty, let her go, 190

Nor bring on us and on our sons a curse."

Thus they ; but aged Priam Helen call'd :

" Come here, my child, and sitting by my side,

From whence thou canst discern thy former Lord,
His kindred, and thy friends (not thee I blame, 195
But to the Gods I owe this woful war),
Tell me the name of yonder mighty chief
Among the Greeks a warrior brave and strong :
Others in height surpass him ; but my eyes
A form so noble never yet beheld, 200
Nor so august ; he moves, a King indeed !”

To whom in answer, Helen, heav’nly fair :
“ With rev’rence, dearest father, and with shame
I look on thee : oh would that I had died
That day when hither with thy son I came, 205
And left my husband, friends, and darling child,
And all the lov’d companions of my youth :
That I died not, with grief I pine away.
But to thy question ; I will tell thee true ;
Yon chief is Agamemnon, Atreus’ son, 210
Wide-reigning, mighty monarch, ruler good,
And valiant warrior ; in my husband’s name,
Lost as I am, I call’d him brother once.”

She spoke : th’ old man admiring gaz’d, and cried,
“ Oh bless’d Atrides, child of happy fate, 215

Favour'd of Heav'n ! how many noble Greeks
Obey thy rule ! In vine-clad Phrygia once
I saw the hosts of Phrygian warriors wheel
Their rapid steeds ; and with them, all the bands
Of Otreus, and of Mygdon, godlike King, 220
Who lay encamp'd beside Sangarius' stream :
I too with them was number'd, in the day
When met them in the field the Amazons,
The woman-warriors ; but their forces all
Reach'd not the number of the keen-ey'd Greeks." 225

Ulysses next the old man saw, and ask'd,
"Tell me again, dear child, who this may be,
In stature less than Atreus' royal son,
But broader-shoulder'd, and of ampler chest.
His arms are laid upon the fertile plain, 230
But he himself is moving through the ranks,
Inspecting, like a full-fleec'd ram, that moves
Majestic through a flock of snow-white ewes."

To whom Jove's offspring, Helen, thus replied :
"The wise Ulysses that, Laertes' son : 235
Though bred in rugged Ithaca, yet vers'd
In ev'ry stratagem, and deep device."

“ O woman,” then the sage Antenor said,
“ Of these thy words I can the truth avouch ;
For hither when on thine account to treat, 240
Brave Meneläus and Ulysses came,
I lodg’d them in my house, and lov’d them both,
And studied well the form and mind of each.
As they with Trojans mix’d in social guise,
When both were standing, o’er his comrade high 245
With broad-set shoulders Meneläus stood ;
Seated, Ulysses was the nobler form :
Then, in the great Assembly, when to all
Their public speech and argument they fram’d,
In fluent language Meneläus spoke, - - 250
In words though few, yet clear ; though young in years,
No wordy babbler, wasteful of his speech :
But when the skill’d Ulysses rose to speak,
With down-cast visage would he stand, his eyes
Bent on the ground ; the staff he bore, nor back 255
He wav’d, nor forward, but like one untaught,
He held it motionless ; who only saw
Would say that he was mad, or void of sense ;
But when his chest its deep-ton’d voice sent forth,

With words that fell like flakes of wintry snow, 260

No mortal with Ulysses could compare :

Then little reck'd we of his outward show."

At sight of Ajax next th' old man enquir'd ;

“Who is yon other warrior, brave and strong,
Tow’ring o’er all with head and shoulders broad?” 265

To whom, in answer, Helen, heav'nly fair :

“ Gigantic Ajax that, the prop of Greece;

And by his side Idomeneus of Crete

Stands godlike, circled round by Cretan chiefs.

The warlike Mencläus welcom'd him 270

Oft in our palace, when from Crete he came.

Now all the other keen-ey'd Greeks I see,

Whom once I knew, and now could call by name ;

But two I miss, two captains of the host,

My own two brethren, and my mother's sons, 275

Castor and Pollux; Castor, charioteer

Unrivalled, Pollux, matchless pugilist.

In Lacedæmon have they stay'd behind?

Or can it be, in ocean-going ships

That they have come indeed, but shun to join 280

The fight of warriors, fearful of the shame,

And deep disgrace that on my name attend ? ”
Thus she ; but they beneath the teeming earth
In Lacedæmon lay, their native land.

Meanwhile the heralds through the city bore 285
The treaty off'rings to the Gods ; the lambs,
And genial wine, the produce of the soil,
In goat-skin flasks : therewith a flagon bright,
And cups of gold, Idæus brought, and stood
Beside the aged King, as thus he spoke : 290
“ Son of Laomedon, arise ! the chiefs
Of Trojan warriors and of brass-clad Greeks
Call for thy presence on the battle-plain
To swear a truce ; where Paris in the midst
And warlike Menelæus stand prepar'd 295
With the long spear for Helen and the spoils
Of war to combat, that whoe'er may prove
The better man in fight, may bear away
The woman and the spoils in triumph home ;
While we, the rest, in peace and friendship sworn, 300
Shall still possess the fertile plains of Troy ;
And to their native Argos they return,
For noble steeds and lovely women fam'd.”

He said ; the old man shuddered at his words :
But to his comrades gave command forthwith 305
To yoke his car ; and they his word obey'd.
Priam, ascending, gather'd up the reins,
And with Antenor by his side, the twain
Drove through the Scæan gate their flying steeds.

But when between th' opposing ranks they came,
Alighting from the car, they mov'd on foot 311
Between the Trojan and the Grecian hosts.
Uprose then Agamemnon, King of men,
Uprose the sage Ulysses ; to the front
The heralds brought the off'rings to the Gods, 315
And in the flagon mix'd the wine, and pour'd
The hallowing water on the monarchs' hands.
His dagger then the son of Atreus drew,
Suspended, as was wont, beside the hilt
Of his great sword ; and from the victim's head 320
He cut the sacred lock, which to the chiefs
Of Troy and Greece the heralds portion'd out.
Then with uplifted hands he pray'd aloud :
“ O Father Jove ! who rul'st from Ida's height, 324
Most great ! most glorious ! and thou Sun, who see'st

And hearest all things ! Rivers ! and thou Earth !

And ye, who after death beneath the earth

Your vengeance wreak on souls of men forsworn,

Be witness ye, and this our cov'nant guard.

If Meneläus fall by Paris' hand, 330

Let him retain both Helen and the spoil,

While in our ships we take our homeward way ;

If Paris be by Meneläus slain,

Troy shall surrender Helen and the spoil,

With compensation due to Greece, that so 335

A record may to future days remain.

But, Paris slain, if Priam and his sons

The promis'd compensation shall withhold,

Then here, my rights in battle to assert,

Will I remain, till I the end achieve." 340

Thus as he spoke, across the victims' throats

He drew the pitiless blade, and on the ground

He laid them gasping, as the stream of life

Pour'd forth, their vigour by the blade subdued.

Then, from the flagon drawn, from out the cups 345

The wine they pour'd ; and to th' eternal Gods

They pray'd ; and thus from Trojans and from Greeks

Arose the joint petition ; “ Grant, O Jove !
Most great ! most glorious ! grant, ye heav’nly pow’rs,
That whosoe’er this solemn truce shall break, 350
Ev’n as this wine we pour, their hearts’ best blood,
Theirs and their children’s, on the earth be pour’d,
And strangers in subjection take their wives ! ”

Thus they ; but Jove, unyielding, heard their pray’r.
The rites perform’d, then aged Priam spoke : 355
“ Hear me, ye Trojans, and ye well-greav’d Greeks !
To Ilium’s breezy heights I now withdraw,
For that mine eyes will not endure the sight
Of warlike Menelæus and my son
Engag’d in deadly combat ; of the two 360
Which may be doom’d to death, is only known
To Jove, and to th’ immortal pow’rs of Heav’n.”

Thus spoke the godlike King ; and on the car
He plac’d the consecrated lambs ; himself
Ascending then, he gather’d up the reins, 365
And with Antenor by his side, the twain
To Ilium’s walls retrac’d their homeward way.

Then Hector, son of Priam, measur’d out,
With sage Ulysses join’d, th’ allotted space ;

Next, in the brass-bound helmet cast the lots, 370
Which of the two the first should throw the spear.
The crowd, with hands uplifted, to the Gods,
Trojans and Greeks alike, address'd their pray'r:
“ O Father Jove ! who rul'st from Ida's height,
Most great ! most glorious ! grant that whosoe'er 375
On both our armies hath this turmoil brought
May undergo the doom of death, and we,
The rest, firm peace and lasting friendship swear.”

Thus they ; great Hector of the glancing helm,
With eyes averted, shook the casque ; and forth 380
Was cast the lot of Paris ; on the ground
The rest lay down by ranks, where near to each
Were rang'd his active steeds, and glitt'ring arms.
Then o'er his shoulders fair-hair'd Helen's Lord,
The godlike Paris, donn'd his armour bright : 385
First on his legs the well-wrought greaves he fix'd,
Fasten'd with silver clasps ; his ample chest
A breastplate guarded, by Lycaon lent,
His brother, but which fitted well his form.
Around his shoulders slung, his sword he bore, 390
Brass-bladed, silver-studded ; then his shield

Weighty and strong ; and on his firm-set head
A helm he wore, well wrought, with horsehair plume
That nodded, fearful, o'er his brow ; his hand
Grasp'd the firm spear, familiar to his hold. 395
Prepar'd alike the adverse warrior stood.

They, from the crowd apart their armour donn'd,
Came forth : and each, with eyes of mutual hate,
Regarded each : admiring wonder seiz'd
The Trojan warriors and the well-greav'd Greeks, 400
As in the centre of the measur'd ground
They stood oppos'd, and pois'd their quiv'ring spears.
First Paris threw his weighty spear, and struck
Fair in the midst Atrides' buckler round,
But broke not through ; upon the stubborn targe 405
Was bent the lance's point ; then thus to Jove,
His weapon hurling, Meneläus pray'd :

“ Great King, on him who wrought me causeless wrong,
On Paris, grant that retribution due
My arm may bring ; that men in days to come 410
May fear their host to injure, and repay
With treach'rous wile his hospitable cares.”

He said, and poisoning, hurl'd his weighty spear :

Full in the midst it struck the buckler round ; 414
Right through the buckler pass'd the sturdy spear,
And through the gorgeous breastplate, and within
Cut through the linen vest ; but Paris, back
Inclining, stoop'd, and shunn'd the doom of death.

Atrides then his silver-studded sword
Rearing on high, a mighty blow let fall 420
On Paris' helm ; but shiv'ring in his hand
In countless fragments flew the faithless blade.
Then thus to Jove, with eyes uplift to Heav'n,
Atrides made his moan : " O Father Jove !
Of all the Gods, the most unfriendly thou ! 425
On Paris' head I hop'd for all his crimes
To wreak my vengeance due ; but in my grasp
My faithless sword is shatter'd, and my spear
Hath bootless left my hand, nor reached my foe."
Then onward rushing, by the horsehair plume 430
He seiz'd his foeman's helm, and wrenching round
Dragg'd by main force amid the well-greav'd Greeks.
The broider'd strap, that, pass'd beneath his beard,
The helmet held, the warrior's throat compress'd :
Then had Atrides dragg'd him from the field, 435

And endless fame acquir'd ; but Venus, child
Of Jove, her fav'rite's peril quickly saw,
And broke the throttling strap of tough bull's hide.
In the broad hand the empty helm remained.
The trophy, by their champion whirl'd amid 440
The well-greav'd Greeks, his eager comrades seiz'd ;
While he, infuriate, rush'd with murd'rous aim
On Priam's son ; but him, the Queen of Love
(As Gods can only) from the field convey'd,
Wrapt in a misty cloud ; and on a couch, 445
Sweet perfumes breathing, gently laid him down ;
Then went in search of Helen ; her she found,
Circled with Trojan dames, on Ilium's tow'r :
Her by her airy robe the Goddess held,
And in the likeness of an aged dame 450
Who oft for her, in Sparta when she dwelt,
Many a fair fleece had wrought, and lov'd her well,
Address'd her thus : " Come, Helen, to thy house ;
Come, Paris calls thee ; in his chamber he
Expects thee, resting on luxurious couch, 455
In costly garb, with manly beauty grac'd :
Not from the fight of warriors wouldst thou deem

He late had come, but for the dance prepar'd,
Or resting from the dance's pleasing toil."

She said, and Helen's spirit within her mov'd ; 460
And when she saw the Goddess' beauteous neck,
Her lovely bosom, and her glowing eyes,
She gaz'd in wonder, and address'd her thus :
" Oh why, great Goddess, make me thus thy sport ?
Seek'st thou to bear me far away from hence 465
To some fair Phrygian or Mæonian town,
If there some mortal have thy favour gain'd ?
Or, for that Menelæus in the field
Hath vanquish'd Paris, and is willing yet
That I, his bane, should to his home return ; 470
Here art thou found, to weave again thy wiles !
Go then thyself ! thy godship abdicate !
Renounce Olympus ! lavish here on him
Thy pity and thy care ! he may perchance
Make thee his wife—at least his paramour ! 475
But thither go not I ! foul shame it were
Again to share his bed ; the dames of Troy
Will for a byword hold me ; and e'en now
My soul with endless sorrow is possess'd."

To whom in anger heav'nly Venus spoke : 480

“Incense me not, poor fool ! lest I in wrath
Desert thee quite, and as I heretofore
Have lov'd, so make thee object of my hate ;
And kindle, 'twixt the Trojans and the Greeks,
Such bitter feuds, as both shall wreak on thee.” 485

She said ; and trembled Helen, child of Jove ;
She rose in silence ; in a snow-white veil
All glitt'ring, shrouded ; by the Goddess led
She pass'd, unnotic'd by the Trojan dames.
But when to Paris' splendid house they came, 490
Thronging around her, her attendants gave
Their duteous service ; through the lofty hall
With queenly grace the godlike woman pass'd.
A seat the laughter-loving Goddess plac'd
By Paris' side ; there Helen sat, the child 495
Of ægis-bearing Jove, with downcast eyes,
Yet with sharp words she thus address'd her Lord :
“ Back from the battle ? would thou there hadst died
Beneath a warrior's arm, whom once I call'd
My husband ! vainly didst thou boast erewhile 500
Thine arm, thy dauntless courage, and thy spear

The warlike Meneläus should subdue !

Go now again, and challenge to the fight

The warlike Meneläus. Be thou ware !

I warn thee, pause, ere madly thou presume 505

With fair-hair'd Meneläus to contend !

Soon shouldst thou fall beneath his conqu'ring spear."

To whom thus Paris : " Wring not thus my soul,

With keen reproaches : now, with Pallas' aid,

Hath Meneläus conquer'd ; but my day 510

Will come : I too can boast my guardian Gods.

But turn we now to love, and love's delights ;

For never did thy beauty so inflame

My sense ; not when from Lacedæmon first

I bore thee in my ocean-going ships, 515

And revell'd in thy love on Cranaë's isle,

As now it fills my soul with fond desire."

He said, and led her to the nuptial couch ;

Her Lord she follow'd ; and while there reclin'd

Upon the richly-inlaid couch they lay, 520

Atrides, like a lion baffled, rush'd

Amid the crowd, if haply he might find

The godlike Paris ; but not one of all

The Trojans and their brave allies could aid

The warlike Meneläus in his search ; 525

Not that, for love, would any one that knew

Have screen'd him from his anger, for they all

Abhorr'd him as the shade of death : then thus

Outspoke great Agamemnon, King of men :

“ Hear me, ye Trojans, Dardans, and Allies ! 530

With warlike Meneläus rests, 'tis plain,

The prize of vict'ry : then surrender ye

The Argive Helen and the spoils of war,

With compensation due to Greece, that so

A record may to future days remain.” 535

Thus he ; the Greeks, assenting, cheer'd his words.

ARGUMENT.

THE BREACH OF THE TRUCE, AND THE FIRST BATTLE.

The Gods deliberate in council concerning the Trojan war: they agree upon the continuation of it, and Jupiter sends down Minerva to break the truce. She persuades Pandarus to aim an arrow at Menelæus, who is wounded, but cured by Machaon. In the mean time some of the Trojan troops attack the Greeks. Agamemnon is distinguished in all the parts of a good general; he reviews the troops, and exhorts the leaders, some by praises, and others by reproofs. Nestor is particularly celebrated for his military discipline. The battle joins, and great numbers are slain on both sides.

The same day continues through this, as through the last book; as it does also through the two following, and almost to the end of the seventh book. The scene is wholly in the field before Troy.

BOOK IV.

ON golden pavement, round the board of Jove,
The Gods were gather'd ; Hebe in the midst
Pour'd the sweet nectar ; they, in golden cups,
Each other pledg'd, as down they look'd on Troy.
Then Jove, with cutting words and taunting tone, 5
Began the wrath of Juno to provoke :
“ Two Goddesses for Meneläus fight,
Thou, Juno, Queen of Argos, and with thee
Minerva, shield of warriors ; but ye two
Sitting aloof, well-pleased it seems, look on ; 10
While laughter-loving Venus, at the side
Of Paris standing, still averts his fate,
And reseues, when, as now, expecting death.
To warlike Meneläus we decree,
Of right, the vict'ry ; but consult we now 15
What may the issue be ; if we shall light
Again the flame of war and discord fierce,

Or the two sides in peace and friendship join.
For me, if thus your gen'ral voice incline,
Let Priam's city stand, and Helen back 20
To warlike Meneläus be restor'd."

So spoke the God ; but seated side by side,
Juno and Pallas glances interchang'd
Of ill portent for Troy ; Pallas indeed
Sat silent ; and, though inly wroth with Jove, 25
Yet answer'd not a word ; but Juno's breast
Could not contain her rage, and thus she spoke :
"What words, dread son of Saturn, dost thou speak ?
How wouldst thou render vain, and void of fruit,
My weary labour and my horses' toil, 30
To stir the people, and on Priam's self,
And Priam's offspring, bring disastrous fate ?
Do as thou wilt ! yet not with our consent."

To whom, in wrath, the Cloud-compeller thus :
"Revengeful ! how have Priam and his sons 35
So deeply injur'd thee, that thus thou seek'st
With unabated anger to pursue,
Till thou o'erthrow, the strong-built walls of Troy ?
Couldst thou but force the gates, and entering in

On Priam's mangled flesh, and Priam's sons, 40

And Trojans all, a bloody banquet make,

Perchance thy fury might at length be stayed.

But have thy will, lest this in future times

"Twixt me and thee be cause of strife renew'd.

Yet hear my words, and ponder what I say: 45

If e'er, in times to come, my will should be

Some city to destroy, inhabited

By men beloved of thee, seek not to turn

My wrath aside, but yield, as I do now,

Consenting, but with heart that ill consents; 50

For of all cities fair, beneath the sun

And starry Heaven, the abode of mortal men,

None to my soul was dear as sacred Troy,

And Priam's self, and Priam's warrior race.

For with drink-off'rings due, and fat of lambs, 55

My altar still hath at their hands been fed;

Such honour hath to us been ever paid."

To whom the stag-ey'd Juno thus replied:

"Three cities are there, dearest to my heart;

Argos, and Sparta, and the ample streets 60

Of rich Mycenæ ; work on them thy will ;
Destroy them, if thine anger they incur ;
I will not interpose, nor hinder thee ;
Mourn them I shall ; reluctant see their fall,
But not resist ; for sovereign is thy will. 65
Yet should my labours not be fruitless all ;
For I too am a God ; my blood is thine ;
Worthy of honour, as the eldest born
Of deep-designing Saturn, and thy wife ;
Thine, who o'er all th' Immortals reign'st supreme. 70
But yield we each to other, I to thee,
And thou to me ; the other Gods will all
By us be rul'd. On Pallas then enjoin
That to the battle-field of Greece and Troy
She haste, and so contrive that Trojans first 75
May break the treaty, and the Greeks assail."

She said : the Sire of Gods and men complied,
And thus with wingèd words to Pallas spoke :
" Go to the battle-field of Greece and Troy
In haste, and so contrive that Trojans first 80
May break the treaty, and the Greeks assail."

His words fresh impulse gave to Pallas' zeal,

And from Olympus' heights in haste she sped ;
Like to a meteor, that, of grave portent
To warring armies or sea-faring men, 85
The son of deep-designing Saturn sends,
Bright-flashing, scatt'ring fiery sparks around,
The blue-ey'd Goddess darted down to earth,
And lighted in the midst ; amazement held
The Trojan warriors and the well-greav'd Greeks ; 90
And one to other look'd and said, " What means
This sign ? Must fearful battle rage again,
Or may we hope for gentle peace from Jove,
Who to mankind dispenses peace and war ?"
Such was the converse Greeks and Trojans held. 95
Pallas meanwhile, amid the Trojan host,
Clad in the likeness of Antenor's son,
Læodocus, a spearman stout and brave,
Search'd here and there, if haply she might find
The godlike Pandarus ; Lycaon's son 100
She found, of noble birth and stalwart form,
Standing, encircled by his sturdy band
Of bucklered followers from Æsepus' stream.
She stood beside him, and address'd him thus :

“ Wilt thou by me be ruled, Lycaon's son ? 105
For durst thou but at Meneläus shoot
Thy wingèd arrow, great would be thy fame,
And great thy favour with the men of Troy,
And most of all with Paris ; at his hand
Thou shalt receive rich guerdon, when he hears 110
That warlike Meneläus, by thy shaft
Subdued, is laid upon the fun'ral pyre.
Bend then thy bow at Atreus' glorious son,
Vowing to Phoebus, Lycia's guardian God,
The Archer-King, to pay of firstling lambs 115
An ample hecatomb, when home return'd
In safety to Zeleia's sacred town.”
Thus she ; and, fool, he listen'd to her words.
Straight he uncas'd his polish'd bow, his spoil
Won from a mountain ibex, which himself, 120
In ambush lurking, through the breast had shot,
True to his aim, as from behind a crag
He came in sight ; prone on the rock he fell ;
With horns of sixteen palms his head was crown'd ;
These deftly wrought a skilful workman's hand, 125
And polish'd smooth, and tipp'd the ends with gold.

He bent, and resting on the ground his bow,
Strung it anew ; his faithful comrades held
Their shields before him, lest the sons of Greece
Should make their onset ere his shaft could reach 130
The warlike Menelæus, Atreus' son.

His quiver then withdrawing from its case,
With care a shaft he chose, ne'er shot before,
Well-feather'd, messenger of pangs and death ;
The stinging arrow fitted to the string, 135
And yow'd to Phœbus, Lycia's guardian God,
The Archer-King, to pay of firstling lambs
An ample hecatomb, when home return'd
In safety to Zeleia's sacred town.

At once the sinew and the notch he drew ; 140
The sinew to his breast, and to the bow
The iron head ; then, when the mighty bow
Was to a circle strain'd, sharp rang the horn,
And loud the sinew twang'd, as tow'rd the crowd
With deadly speed the eager arrow sprang. 145

Nor, Meneläus, was thy safety then
Uncar'd for of the Gods ; Jove's daughter first,
Pallas, before thee stood, and turn'd aside

The pointed arrow ; turn'd it so aside
As when a mother from her infant's cheek, 150
Wrapt in sweet slumbers, brushes off a fly ;
Its course she so directed that it struck
Just where the golden clasps the belt restrain'd,
And where the breastplate, doubled, check'd its force.
On the close-fitting belt the arrow struck ; 155
Right through the belt of curious workmanship
It drove, and through the breastplate richly wrought,
And through the coat of mail he wore beneath,
His inmost guard and best defence to check
The hostile weapons' force ; yet onward still 160
The arrow drove, and graz'd the hero's flesh.
Forth issued from the wound the crimson blood.
As when some Carian or Mæonian maid,
With crimson dye the ivory stains, designed
To be the cheek-piece of a warrior's steed, 165
By many a valiant horseman coveted,
As in the house it lies, a monarch's boast,
The horse adorning, and the horseman's pride :
So, Menelæus, then thy graceful thighs, 169
And knees, and ancles, with thy blood were dy'd.

Great Agamemnon shudder'd as he saw
The crimson drops out-welling from the wound ;
Shudder'd the warlike Meneläus' self ;
But when not buried in his flesh he saw
The barb and sinew, back his spirit came. 175

Then deeply groaning, Agamemnon spoke,
As Meneläus by the hand he held,
And with him groan'd his comrades : " Brother dear,
I wrought thy death when late, on compact sworn,
I sent thee forth alone for Greece to fight ; 180
Wounded by Trojans, who their plighted faith
Have trodden under foot ; but not in vain
Are solemn cov'nants and the blood of lambs,
The treaty wine outpoured, and hand-plight given,
Wherein men place their trust ; if not at once, 185
Yet soon or late will Jove assert their claim ;
And heavy penalties the perjured pay
With their own blood, their children's, and their wives'.
So in my inmost soul full well I know
The day shall come when this imperial Troy, 190
And Priam's race, and Priam's royal self,
Shall in one common ruin be o'erthrown ;

And Saturn's son himself, high-thronèd Jove,
Who dwells in Heav'n, shall in their faces flash
His ægis dark and dread, this treach'rous deed 195
Avenging ; this shall surely come to pass.
But, Meneläus, deep will be my grief,
If thou shouldst perish, meeting thus thy fate.
To thirsty Argos should I then return
By foul disgrace o'erwhelm'd ; for, with thy fall, 200
The Greeks will mind them of their native land ;
And as a trophy to the sons of Troy
The Argive Helen leave ; thy bones meanwhile
Shall moulder here beneath a foreign soil,
Thy work undone ; and with insulting scorn 205
Some vaunting Trojan, leaping on the tomb
Of noble Meneläus, thus shall say :
' On all his foes may Agamemnon so
His wrath accomplish, who hath hither led
Of Greeks a mighty army, all in vain ; 210
And bootless home with empty ships hath gone,
And valiant Meneläus left behind ;'
Thus when men speak, gape, earth, and hide my shame."
To whom the fair-hair'd Meneläus thus

With cheering words : " Fear not thyself, nor cause
The troops to fear : the arrow hath not touch'd 216
A vital part : the sparkling belt hath first
Turn'd it aside, the doublet next beneath,
And coat of mail, the work of arm'rer's hands."

To whom the monarch Agamemnon thus : 220
" Dear Meneläus, may thy words be true !
The leech shall tend thy wound, and spread it o'er
With healing ointments to assuage the pain."

He said, and to the sacred herald call'd : 224
" Haste thee, Talthybius ! summon with all speed
The son of Æsculapius, peerless leech,
Machaon ; bid him hither haste to see
The warlike Meneläus, chief of Greeks,
Who by an arrow from some practis'd hand,
Trojan or Lycian, hath receiv'd a wound ; 230
A cause of boast to them, to us of grief."

He said ; nor did the herald not obey,
But through the brass-clad ranks of Greece he pass'd,
In search of brave Machaon ; him he found
Standing, by buckler'd warriors bold begirt, 235
Who follow'd him from Trica's grassy plains.

He stood beside him, and address'd him thus :

“ Up, son of *Æsculapius* ! *Atreus*' son,

The mighty monarch, summons thee to see

The warlike *Menelæus*, chief of Greeks, 240

Who by an arrow from some practis'd hand,

Trojan or Lycian, hath receiv'd a wound ;

A cause of boast to them, to us of grief.”

Thus he ; and not unmov'd *Machaon* heard : 244

They thro' the crowd, and thro' the wide-spread host,

Together took their way ; but when they came

Where fair-hair'd *Menelæus*, wounded, stood,

Around him in a ring the best of Greece,

And in the midst the godlike chief himself,

From the close-fitting belt the shaft he drew, 250

Breaking the pointed barbs ; the sparkling belt

He loosen'd, and the doublet underneath,

And coat of mail, the work of arm'rer's hand.

But when the wound appear'd in sight, where struck

The stinging arrow, from the clotted blood 255

He cleans'd it, and applied with skilful hand

The herbs of healing power, which *Chiron* erst

In friendly guise upon his sire bestowed.

While round the valiant Meneläus they
Were thus engag'd, advanc'd the Trojan hosts : 260
They donn'd their arms, and for the fight prepar'd.
In Agamemnon then no trace was seen
Of laggard sloth, no shrinking from the fight,
But full of ardour to the field he rush'd.
He left his horses and brass-mounted car 265
(The champing horses by Eurymedon,
The son of Ptolemy, Peiræus' son,
Were held aloof), but with repeated charge
Still to be near at hand, when faint with toil
His limbs should fail him marshalling his host. 270
Himself on foot the warrior ranks array'd ;
With cheering words addressing whom he found
With zeal preparing for the battle-field :
“ Relax not, valiant friends, your warlike toil ;
For Jove to falsehood ne'er will give his aid ; 275
And they who first, regardless of their oaths,
Have broken truce, shall with their flesh themselves
The vultures feed, while we, their city raz'd,
Their wives and helpless children bear away.”
But whom remiss and shrinking from the war 280

He found, with keen rebuke he thus assail'd ;
“Ye wretched Greeks, your country's foul reproach,
Have ye no sense of shame ? Why stand ye thus
Like timid fawns, that in the chase run down,
Stand all bewildered, spiritless and tame ? 285
So stand ye now, nor dare to face the fight.
What ! will ye wait the Trojans' near approach,
Where on the beach, beside the hoary deep,
Our goodly ships are drawn, and see if Jove
Will o'er you his protecting hand extend ?” 290

As thus the King the serried ranks review'd,
He came where thronging round their skilful chief
Idomeneus, the warlike bands of Crete
Were arming for the fight ; Idomeneus,
Of courage stubborn as the forest boar, 295
The foremost ranks array'd ; Meriones
The rearmost squadrons had in charge ; with joy
The monarch Agamemnon saw, and thus
With accents bland Idomeneus address'd :

“Idomeneus, above all other Greeks, 300
In battle and elsewhere, I honour thee ;
And in the banquet, where the noblest mix

The ruddy wine for chiefs alone reserved,
Though others drink their share, yet by thy side
Thy cup, like mine, still new replenish'd stands 305
To drink at pleasure. Up then to the fight,
And show thyself the warrior that thou art."

To whom the Cretan King, Idomeneus :
"In me, Atrides, thou shalt ever find,
As at the first I promis'd, comrade true ; 310
But go, and stir the other long-haired Greeks
To speedy battle ; since the Trojans now
The truce have broken ; and defeat and death
Must wait on those who have their oaths forsworn."

He said, and Agamemnon went his way 315
Rejoicing ; through the crowd he pass'd, and came
Where stood th' Ajaces ; them, in act to arm,
Amid a cloud of infantry he found ;
And as a goat-herd from his watch-tow'r crag
Beholds a cloud advancing o'er the sea, 320
By Zephyr's breath impell'd ; as from afar
He gazes, black as pitch, it sweeps along
O'er the dark ocean's face, and with it brings
A hurricane of rain ; he, shudd'ring, sees,

And drives his flock beneath the shelt'ring cave : 325
So thick and dark, about th' Ajaces stirr'd,
Impatient for the war, the stalwart youths,
Black masses, bristling close with spear and shield.

Well pleas'd, the monarch Agamemnon saw, 329
And thus address'd them : " Valiant chiefs, to you,
The leaders of the brass-clad Greeks, I give
('Twere needless and unseemly) no commands ;
For well ye understand your troops to rouse
To deeds of dauntless courage ; would to Jove,
To Pallas and Apollo, that such mind 335
As is in you, in all the camp were found ;
Then soon should Priam's lofty city fall,
Tak'n and destroy'd by our victorious hands."

Thus saying, them he left, and onward mov'd.
Nestor, the smooth-tongu'd Pylian chief, he found 340
The troops arraying, and to valiant deeds
His friends encouraging ; stout Pelagon,
Alastor, Chromius, Hæmon, warlike Prince,
And Bias bold, his people's sure defence.
In the front rank, with chariot and with horse, 345
He plac'd the car-borne warriors ; in the rear,

Num'rous and brave, a cloud of infantry,
Compactly mass'd, to stem the tide of war,
Between the two he plac'd th' inferior troops, 349
That e'en against their will they needs must fight.
The horsemen first he charg'd, and bade them keep
Their horses well in hand, nor wildly rush
Amid the tumult : " See," he said, " that none,
In skill or valour over-confident,
Advance before his comrades, nor alone 355
Retire ; for so your lines were easier forc'd ;
But ranging each beside a hostile car,
Thrust with your spears ; for such the better way ;
By men so disciplin'd, in elder days
Were lofty walls and fencèd towns destroy'd." 360
Thus he, experienc'd in the wars of old ;
Well pleas'd, the monarch Agamemnon saw,
And thus address'd him ; " Would to Heav'n, old man,
That, as thy spirit, such too were thy strength
And vigour of thy limbs ; but now old age, 365
The common lot of mortals, weighs thee down ;
Would I could see some others in thy place,
And thou couldst still be numbered with the young !"

To whom Gerenian Nestor thus replied :

“ Atrides, I too fain would see restor'd 370

The strength I once possess'd, what time I slew

The godlike Ereuthalion ; but the Gods

On man bestow not all their gifts at once ;

I then was young, and now am bow'd with age,

Yet with the chariots can I still go forth, 375

And aid with sage advice : for such the right

And privilege of age ; to hurl the spear

Belongs to younger men, who after me

Were born, who boast their vigour unimpair'd.”

He said ; and Agamemnon went his way, 380

Rejoicing : to Menestheus next he came,

The son of Petëus, charioteer renown'd ;

Him found he, circled by th' Athenian bands,

The raisers of the war-cry ; close beside

The sage Ulysses stood, around him rang'd, 385

Not unrenown'd, the Cephalonian troops :

The sound of battle had not reach'd their ears ;

For but of late the Greek and Trojan hosts

Were set in motion ; they expecting stood,

Till other Grecian columns should advance, 390

Assail the Trojans, and renew the war.

Atrides saw, and thus, reproachful, spoke :

“ O son of Petëus, Heav’n-descended King !

And thou too, master of all tricky arts,

Why, ling’ring, stand ye thus aloof, and wait 395

For others coming? ye should be the first

The hot assault of battle to confront ;

For ye are first my summons to receive,

Whene’er the honour’d banquet we prepare :

And well ye like to eat the sav’ry meat, 400

And, at your will, the luscious wine-cups drain :

Now stand ye here, and unconcern’d would see

Ten columns pass before you to the fight.”

To whom, with stern regard, Ulysses thus : 404

“ What words have pass’d the barrier of thy lips,

Atrides? how with want of warlike zeal

Canst thou reproach us? when the Greeks again

The furious war shall waken, thou shalt see

(If that thou care to see) amid the ranks

Of Troy, the father of Telemachus 410

In the fore-front: thy words are empty wind.”

Atrides saw him chafed, and smiling, thus

Recalled his former words : " Ulysses sage,
Laertes' high-born son, not over-much
I give thee blame, or orders ; for I know 415
Thy mind to gentle counsels is inclin'd ;
Thy thoughts are one with mine ; then come, hence-
forth

Shall all be well ; and if a hasty word
Have pass'd, may Heaven regard it as unsaid."

Thus saying, them he left, and onward mov'd. 420
The son of Tydeus, valiant Diomed,
Standing he found amid his warlike steeds
And well-built cars ; beside him, Sthenelus,
The son of Capaneus ; Atrides saw,
And thus address'd him with reproachful words : 425
" Alas ! thou son of Tydeus, wise and bold,
Why crouch with fear ? why thus appall'd survey
The pass of war ? not so had Tydeus crouch'd ;
His hand was ever ready from their foes
To guard his comrades ; so, at least, they say 430
Whose eyes beheld his labours ; I myself
Nor met him e'er, nor saw ; but, by report,
Thy father was the foremost man of men.

A stranger to Mycenæ once he came,
With godlike Polynices ; not at war, 435
But seeking succour for the troops that lay
Encamp'd before the sacred walls of Thebes ;
For reinforcements earnestly they sued ;
The boon they ask'd was granted them, but Jove
With unpropitious omens turn'd them back. 440
Advancing on their journey, when they reach'd
Asopus' grassy banks and rushes deep,
The Greeks upon a mission Tydeus sent :
He went ; and many Thebans there he found
Feasting in Eteocles' royal hall : 445
Amid them all, a stranger and alone,
He stood unterrified, and challeng'd all
To wrestle with him, and with ease o'erthrew :
So mighty was the aid that Pallas gave.
Whereat indignant, they, on his return, 450
An ambush set, of fifty chosen youths ;
Two were their leaders ; Hæmon's godlike son,
Mæon, and Lycophontes, warrior brave,
Son of Autophonus ; and these too far'd
But ill at Tydeus' hand ; he slew them all : 455

Mæon alone, obedient to the Gods,
He spar'd, and bade him bear the tidings home.
Such Tydeus was : though greater in debate,
His son will never rival him in arms."

He said : brave Diomed in silence heard, 460
Submissive to the monarch's stern rebuke ;
Then answer'd thus the son of Capaneus :
" Atrides, speak not falsely : well thou know'st
The truth, that we our fathers far surpass.
The seven-gated city, Thebes, we took, 465
With smaller force beneath the wall of Mars,
Trusting to heav'nly signs, and fav'ring Jove,
Where they by blind, presumptuous folly fail'd ;
Then equal not our fathers' deeds with ours."

To whom thus Diomed, with stern regard : 470
" Father, be silent ; hearken to my words :
I blame not Agamemnon, King of men,
Who thus to battle stirs the well-greav'd Greeks :
His will the glory be if we o'ercome
The valiant Trojans, and their city take ; 475
Great too his loss if they o'er us prevail :
Then come, let us too for the fight prepare."

He said ; and from the car leap'd down in arms :
Fierce rang the armour on the warrior's breast,
That ev'n the stoutest heart might quail with fear.

As by the west wind driv'n, the ocean waves 481
Dash forward on the far-resounding shore,
Wave upon wave ; first curls the ruffled sea
With whit'ning crests ; anon with thund'ring roar
It breaks upon the beach, and from the crags 485
Recoiling flings in giant curves its head
Aloft, and tosses high the wild sea-spray :
Column on column, so the hosts of Greece
Pour'd, ceaseless, to the war ; to each the chiefs
Their orders gave ; the rest in silence mov'd : 490
Nor would ye deem that mighty mass endued
With power of speech, so silently they moved
In awe of their great captains : far around
Flashed the bright armour they were girt withal.

On th' other hand, the Trojans, as the flocks 495
That in the court-yard of some wealthy Lord
In countless numbers stand, at milking-time,
Incessant bleating, as their lambs they hear ;
So rose their mingled clamours through the camp ;

For not one language nor one speech was there, 500
But many nations call'd from distant lands :
These Mars inspir'd, and those the blue-ey'd Maid ;
And Fear, and Flight, and Discord unappeas'd,
Of blood-stain'd Mars the sister and the friend :
With humble crest at first, anon her head, 505
While yet she treads the earth, affronts the skies.
The gage of battle in the midst she threw,
Strode through the crowd, and woe to mortals wrought.
When to the midst they came, together rush'd
Bucklers and lances, and the furious might 510
Of mail-clad warriors ; bossy shield on shield
Clatter'd in conflict ; loud the clamour rose.
Then rose too mingled shouts and groans of men
Slaying and slain ; the earth ran red with blood. 514
As when, descending from the mountain's brow,
Two wintry torrents, from their copious source
Pour downward to the narrow pass, where meet
Their mingled waters in some deep ravine,
Their weight of flood ; on the far mountain's side
The shepherd hears the roar ; so loud arose 520
The shouts and yells of those commingling hosts.

First 'mid the foremost ranks Antilochus
A Trojan warrior, Echepolus, slew,
A crested chief, Thalesius' noble son.
Beneath his horsehair-plumèd helmet's peak 525
The sharp spear struck ; deep in his forehead fix'd
It pierc'd the bone ; then darkness veil'd his eyes,
And, like a tow'r, amid the press he fell.
Him Elephenor, brave Abantian chief,
Son of Chalcodon, seizing by the feet, 530
Dragg'd from beneath the darts, in haste to strip
His armour off ; but short-liv'd was th' attempt ;
For bold Agenor mark'd him as he drew
The corpse aside, and with his brass-tipp'd spear 534
Thrust through his flank, unguarded, as he stoop'd,
Beside his shield ; and slack'd his limbs in death.
The spirit was fled ; but hotly o'er him rag'd
The war of Grecks and Trojans ; fierce as wolves
They fought, man struggling hand to hand with man.

Then Ajax Telamon a stalwart youth,
Son of Anthemion, Simöisius, slew ;
Whose mother gave him birth on Simöis' banks,
When with her parents down from Ida's heights

She drove her flock ; thence Simöisius nam'd :
Not destined he his parents to repay 545
Their early care ; for short his term of life,
By godlike Ajax' mighty spear subdued.
Him, to the front advancing, in the breast,
By the right nipple, Ajax struck ; right through, 549
From front to back, the brass-tipp'd spear was driv'n,
Out through the shoulder ; prone in dust he fell ;
As some tall poplar, grown in marshy mead,
Smooth-stemm'd, with branches tapering tow'rd the
head ;
Which with the biting axe the wheelwright fells,
To bend the felloes of his well-built car ; 555
Sapless, beside the river, lies the tree ;
So lay the youthful Simöisius, felled
By godlike Ajax' hand. At him, in turn,
The son of Priam, Antiphus, encas'd
In radiant armour, from amid the crowd 560
His jav'lin threw ; his mark, indeed, he miss'd ;
But through the groin Ulysses' faithful friend,
Leucus, he struck, in act to bear away
The youthful dead ; down on the corpse he fell,

And, dying, of the dead relax'd his grasp. 565

Fierce anger, at his comrade's slaughter, filled

Ulysses' breast ; in burnished armour clad

Forward he rush'd ; and standing near, around

He look'd, and pois'd on high his glitt'ring lance :

Beneath his aim the Trojans back recoil'd ; 570

Nor vainly flew the spear ; Democöon,

A bastard son of Priam, met the blow :

He from Abydos came, his high-bred mares

There left to pasture ; him Ulysses, fill'd

With fury at his lov'd companion's death, 575

Smote on the head ; through either temple pass'd

The pointed spear, and darkness veil'd his eyes.

Thund'ring he fell, and loud his armour rang.

At this the Trojan chiefs, and Hector's self, 579

'Gan to give ground : the Greeks with joyful shouts

Seiz'd on the dead, and forward urg'd their course.

From Ilium's heights Apollo, filled with wrath,

Look'd down, and to the Trojans shouted loud :

“ Uprouse ye, valiant Trojans ! give not way

Before the Greeks ; their bodies are not stone, 585

Nor iron, to defy your trenchant swords ;

And great Achilles, fair-hair'd Thetis' son,
Fights not, but o'er his anger broods apart."
So from the city call'd the heav'nly voice ;
The Greeks, meanwhile, all-glorious Pallas fir'd, 590
Mov'd 'mid the tumult, and the laggards rous'd.

Then fell Diores, Amarynceus' son :

A rugged fragment of a rock had crush'd
His ancle and right leg ; from Ænon came
The Thracian chief who hurl'd it, Peiröus, son 595
Of Imbrasus ; the tendons both, and bones,
The huge mass shatter'd ; backward in the dust
He fell, both hands extending to his friends,
Gasping his life away ; then quick up-ran
He who the blow had dealt, and with his spear 600
Thrust through him, by the navel ; from the wound
His bowels gush'd, and darkness veil'd his eyes.

But he, advancing, through the breast was struck
Above the nipple, by th' Ætolian chief, 604
Thoas ; and through his lungs the spear was driv'n.
Thoas approach'd, and from his breast withdrew
The sturdy spear, and with his sharp-edg'd sword
Across his waistband gave the mortal stroke :

Yet could not touch his arms ; for all around
The Thracian warriors, with their tufted crowns, 610
Their long spears held before them, him, though stout,
And strong, and valiant, kept at bay ; perforce
He yielded ; and thus side by side were laid
The two, the Thracian and th' Epeian chief ;
And round them many a valiant soldier lay. 615

Well might the deeds achieved that day deserve
His praise, who through that bloody field might pass
By sword or spear unwounded, by the hand
Of Pallas guarded from the weapon's flight ;
For many a Trojan, many a Greek, that day 620
Prone in the dust, and side by side, were laid.

ARGUMENT.

THE ACTS OF DIOMED.

Diomed, assisted by Pallas, performs wonders in this day's battle.

Pandarus wounds him with an arrow, but the goddess cures him, enables him to discern gods from mortals, and prohibits him from contending with any of the former, excepting Venus. Æneas joins Pandarus to oppose him, Pandarus is killed, and Æneas in great danger but for the assistance of Venus; who, as she is removing her son from the fight, is wounded on the hand by Diomed. Apollo seconds her in his rescue, and, at length, carries off Æneas to Troy, where he is healed in the temple of Pergamus. Mars rallies the Trojans, and assists Hector to make a stand. In the mean time Æneas is restored to the field, and they overthrow several of the Greeks; among the rest Tlepolemus is slain by Sarpedon. Juno and Minerva descend to resist Mars; the latter incites Diomed to go against that god; he wounds him, and sends him groaning to heaven.

The first battle continues through this book. The scene is the same as in the former.



BOOK V.

SUCH strength and courage then to Diomed,
The son of Tydeus, Pallas gave, as rais'd,
'Mid all the Greeks, the glory of his name.
Forth from his helm and shield a fiery light
There flash'd, like autumn's star, that brightest shines
When newly risen from his ocean bath. 6
So from the warrior's head and shoulders flash'd
That fiery light, as to the midst he urg'd
His furious course, where densest masses fought.
There was one Dares 'mid the Trojan host, 10
The priest of Vulean, rich, of blameless life ;
Two gallant sons he had, Idæus nam'd,
And Phegeus, skill'd in all the points of war.
These, parted from the throng, the warrior met ;
They on their car, while he on foot advane'd. 15
When near they came, first Phegeus threw his spear ;
O'er the left shoulder of Tydides pass'd

The erring weapon's point, and miss'd its mark.
His pond'rous spear in turn Tydides threw,
And not in vain ; on Phegeus' breast it struck, 20
Full in the midst, and hurl'd him from the car.
Idæus from the well-wrought chariot sprang,
And fled, nor durst his brother's corpse defend. —
Nor had he so escap'd the doom of death,
But Vulcan bore him safely from the field, 25
In darkness shrouded, that his aged sire
Might not be wholly of his sons bereav'd.
The car Tydides to his comrades gave,
And bade them to the ships the horses drive.

Now when the Trojans Dares' sons beheld, 30
The one in flight, the other stretch'd in death,
Their spirits within them quail'd ; but Pallas took
The hand of Mars, and thus address'd the God :
X “ Mars, Mars, thou bane of mortals, blood-stain'd Lord,
Razer of cities, wherefore leave we not 35
The Greeks and Trojans to contend, and see
To which the sire of all will vict'ry give ;
While we retire, and shun the wrath of Jove ?”
Thus saying, from the battle Mars she led,

And plac'd him on Scamander's steepy banks. 40

The Greeks drove back the Trojan host ; the chiefs
Slew each his victim ; Agamemnon first,
The mighty monarch, from his chariot hurl'd
Hodins, the sturdy Halizonian chief,
Him, as he turn'd, between the shoulder-blades 45
The jav'lin struck, and through his chest was driv'n ;
Thund'ring he fell, and loud his armour rang.

On Phæstus, Borus' son, Mæonian chief,
Who from the fertile plains of Tarna came,
Then sprang Idomeneus ; and as he sought 50
To mount upon his car, the Cretan King
Through his right shoulder drove the pointed spear ;
He fell ; the shades of death his eyes o'erspread,
And of his arms the followers stripp'd his corpse.

The son of Atreus, Menelæus, slew 55
Scamandrius, son of Strophius, sportsman keen,
In woodcraft skilful ; for his practis'd hand
Had by Diana's self been taught to slay
Each beast of chase the mountain forest holds.
But nought avail'd him then the Archer-Queen 60
Diana's counsels, nor his boasted art

Of distant aim ; for as he fled, the lance
Of Meneläus, Atreus' warlike son,
Behind his neck, between the shoulder-blades,
His flight arresting, through his chest was driv'n. 65
Headlong he fell, and loud his armour rang.

Phereclus by Meriones was slain,
Son of Harmonides, whose practis'd hand
Knew well to fashion many a work of art ;
By Pallas highly favour'd ; he the ships 70
For Paris built, first origin of ill,
Freighted with evil to the men of Troy,
And to himself, who knew not Heav'n's decrees.
Him, in his headlong flight, in hot pursuit
Meriones o'ertook, and thrust his lance 75
Through his right flank ; beneath the bone was driv'n
The spear, and pierc'd him through : prone on his knees,
Groaning, he fell, and death his eyelids clos'd.

Meges Pedæus slew, Antenor's son,
A bastard born, but by Theano rear'd 80
With tender care, and nurtur'd as her son,
With her own children, for her husband's sake.
Him, Phyleus' warrior son, approaching near,

Thrust through the junction of the head and neck ;
Crash'd through his teeth the spear beneath the tongue ;
Prone in the dust he gnash'd the brazen point. 86

Eurypylus, Euæmon's noble son,
Hypsenor slew, the worthy progeny
Of Dolopion brave ; Scamander's priest,
And by the people as a God rever'd : 90

Him, as he fled before him, from behind
Eurypylus, Euæmon's noble son,
Smote with the sword ; and from the shoulder-point
The brawny arm he sever'd ; to the ground
Down fell the gory hand ; the darkling shades) 95
Of death, and rig'rous doom, his eyelids clos'd.

Thus labour'd they amid the stubborn fight ;
But of Tydides none might say to whom
His arm belong'd, or whether with the hosts
Of Troy or Greece he mingled in the fight : 100
Hither and thither o'er the plain he rush'd,
Like to a wintry stream, that brimming o'er
Breaks down its barriers in its rapid course ;
Nor well-built bridge can stem the flood, nor fence
That guards the fertile fields, as down it pours 105

Its sudden torrent, swell'd with rain from Heav'n,
And many a goodly work of man destroys :
So back were borne before Tydides' might
The serried ranks of Troy, nor dar'd await,
Despite their numbers, his impetuous charge. 110

Him when Lycaon's noble son beheld
Carreering o'er the plain, the serried ranks
Driving before him, quick at Tydeus' son
He bent his bow ; and onward as he rush'd,
On the right shoulder, near the breastplate's joint, 115
The stinging arrow struck ; right through it pass'd,
And held its way, that blood the breastplate stain'd.
Then shouted loud Lycaon's noble son :

“ Arouse ye, valiant Trojans, ye who goad
Your flying steeds ; the bravest of the Greeks 120
Is wounded, nor, I deem, can long withstand
My weapon, if indeed from Lycia's shore
By Phœbus' counsel sent I join'd the war.”

Thus he, vain-glorious ; but not so was quell'd
The godlike chief ; back he withdrew, and stood 125
Beside his car, and thus to Sthenelus,
The son of Capaneus, his speech address'd :

“Up, gentle son of Capaneus, descend
From off the car, and from my shoulder draw
This stinging arrow forth.” He said, and down 130

Leap’d from the chariot Sthenelus, and stood
Beside him ; and as forth he drew the shaft,
Gush’d out the blood, and dyed the twisted mail.

Then thus the valiant son of Tydeus pray’d :

“Hear me, thou child of ægis-bearing Jove, 135
Unconquer’d ! if amid the deadly fight

Thy friendly aid my father e’er sustain’d,
Let me in turn thy favour find ; and grant
Within my reach and compass of my spear

That man may find himself, who unawares 140
Hath wounded me, and vainly boasting deems
I shall not long behold the light of day.”

Thus pray’d the chief, and Pallas heard his pray’r ;
To all his limbs, to feet and hands alike,
She gave fresh vigour ; and with wingèd words, 145
Beside him as she stood, address’d him thus :

“Go fearless onward, Diomed, to meet
The Trojan hosts ; for I within thy breast
Thy father’s dauntless courage have infus’d,

Such as of old in Tydeus' bosom dwelt, 150
Bold horseman, buckler-clad ; and from thine eyes
The film that dimm'd them I have purg'd away,
That thou mayst well 'twixt Gods and men discern.
If then some God make trial of thy force,
With other of th' Immortals fight thou not ; 155
But should Jove's daughter Venus dare the fray
Thou needst not shun at her to cast thy spear."

This said, the blue-ey'd Goddess disappear'd.
Forthwith again amid the foremost ranks
Tydides mingled ; keenly as before 160
His spirit against the Trojans burn'd to fight,
With threefold fury now he sought the fray.
As when a hungry lion has o'erleap'd
The sheepfold ; him the guardian of the flock
Has wounded, not disabled ; by his wound 165
To rage excited, but not forc'd to fly,
The fold he enters, scares the trembling sheep,
That, closely huddled, each on other press,
Then pounces on his prey, and leaps the fence :
So pounc'd Tydides on the Trojan host. 170
Astynöus and Hypeiron then he slew,

His people's guardian ; through the breast of one
He drove his spear, and with his mighty sword
He smote the other on the collar-bone,
The shoulder sev'ring from the neck and back. 175
Them left he there to lie ; of Abas then
And Polyeidus went in hot pursuit,
Sons of Eurydamas, an aged seer,
Whose visions stay'd them not ; but both were doom'd
A prey to valiant Diomed to fall. 180
Xanthus and Thöon then the hero slew,
The sons of Phænops, children of his age :
He, worn with years, no other sons begot,
Heirs of his wealth ; they two together fell,
And to their father left a load of grief, 185
That from the battle they return'd not home,
And distant kindred all his substance shar'd.
On Chromius and Echemon next he fell,
Two sons of Priam on one chariot borne ;
And as a lion springs upon a herd, 190
And breaks the neck of heifer or of steer,
Feeding in woodland glade ; with such a spring
These two, in vain resisting, from their car

Tydidēs hurl'd ; then stripp'd their arms, and bade
His followers lead their horses to the ships. 195

Him when Æneas saw amid the ranks
Dealing destruction, through the fight and throng
Of spears he plung'd, if haply he might find
The godlike Pandarus ; Lycaon's son
He found, of noble birth and stalwart form, 200
And stood before him, and address'd him thus :
“ Where, Pandarus, are now thy wingèd shafts,
Thy bow, and well-known skill, wherein with thee
Can no man here contend ? nor Lycia boasts,
Through all her wide-spread plains, a truer aim ; 205
Then raise to Jove thy hands, and with thy shaft
Strike down this chief, whoe'er he be, that thus
Is making fearful havoc in our host,
Relaxing many a warrior's limbs in death :
If he be not indeed a God, incens'd 210
Against the Trojans for neglected rites ;
For fearful is the vengeance of a God.”

Whom answer'd thus Lycaon's noble son :
“ Æneas, chief and councillor of Troy,
Most like in all respects to Tydeus' son 215

He seems ; his shield I know, and visor'd helm,
And horses ; whether he himself be God,
I cannot tell ; but if he be indeed
The man I think him, Tydeus' valiant son,
He fights not thus without the aid of Heav'n ; 220
But by his side, his shoulders veiled in cloud,
Some God attends his steps, and turns away
The shaft that just hath reach'd him ; for ev'n now
A shaft I shot, which by the breastplate's joint
Pierc'd his right shoulder through : full sure I deem'd
That shaft had sent him to the shades, and yet 226
It slew him not ; 'tis sure some angry God.
Nor horse have I, nor car on which to mount ;
But in my sire Lycaon's wealthy house
Elev'n fair chariots stand, all newly built, 230
Each with its cover ; by the side of each
Two steeds on rye and barley white are fed ;
And in his well-built house, when here I came,
Lycaon, aged warrior, urg'd me oft
With horses and with chariots high upborne, 235
To lead the Trojans in the stubborn fight ;
I hearken'd not—'twere better if I had—

Yet fear'd I lest my horses, wont to feed
In plenty unstinted, by the soldiers' wants
Might of their custom'd forage be depriv'd; 240
I left them there, and hither came on foot,
And trusting to my bow: vain trust, it seems;
Two chiefs already have I struck, the sons
Of Tydeus and of Atreus; with true aim
Drawn blood from both, yet but increas'd their rage.
Sad was the hour when down from where it hung 246
I took my bow, and hasting to the aid
Of godlike Hector, hither led my troops;
But should I e'er return, and see again
My native land, my wife, my lofty hall, 250
Then may a stranger's sword cut off my head,
If with these hands I shatter not, and burn,
The bow that thus hath fail'd me at my need."

Him answer'd thus Æneas, chief of Troy:
"Speak thou not thus; our fortunes shall not change
Till thou and I, with chariot and with horse, 256
This chief encounter, and his prowess prove;
Then mount my car, and see how swift my steeds,
Hither and thither, in pursuit or flight,

From those of Tros descended, scour the plain. 260

So if the victory to Diomed,

The son of Tydeus, should by Jove be giv'n,

We yet may safely reach the walls of Troy.

Take thou the whip and reins, while I descend

To fight on foot ; or thou the chief engage, 265

And leave to me the conduct of the car."

Whom answer'd thus Lycaon's noble son :

"Æneas, of thy horses and thy car

Take thou the charge ; beneath th' accustomed hand,

With more assurance would they draw the car, 270

If we from Tydeus' son be forced to fly ;

Nor, struck with panic, and thy voice unheard,

Refuse to bear us from the battle-field ;

So should ourselves be slain, and Tydeus' son

In triumph drive thy horses to the ships. 275

But thou thy horses and thy chariot guide,

While I his onset with my lance receive."

Thus saying, on the car they mounted both,

And tow'rd Tydides urg'd their eager steeds.

Them Sthenelus beheld, the noble son 280

Of Capaneus, and to Tydides cried :

“ Oh son of Tydeus, dearest to my soul,
Two men I see, of might invincible,
Impatient to engage thee ; Pandarus,
Well skill'd in archery, Lycaon's son ; 285
With him Æneas, great Anchises' son,
Who from immortal Venus boasts his birth.
Then let us timely to the car retreat,
Lest, moving thus amid the foremost ranks,
Thy daring pay the forfeit of thy life.” 290

To whom brave Diomed with stern regard :
“ Talk not to me of flight ! I heed thee not !
It is not in my nature so to fight
With skulking artifice and faint retreat ;
My strength is yet unbroken ; I should shame 295
To mount the car ; but forward will I go
To meet these chiefs' encounter ; for my soul
Pallas forbids the touch of fear to know.
Nor shall their horses' speed procure for both
A safe return, though one escape my arm. 300
This too I say, and bear my words in mind ;
By Pallas' counsel if my hap should be
To slay them both, leave thou my horses here,

The reins attaching to the chariot-rail,
And seize, and from the Trojans to the ships 305
Drive off the horses in Æneas' car ;
From those descended, which all-seeing Jove
On Tros, for Ganymede his son, bestow'd :
With these may none beneath the sun compare.
Anchises, King of men, the breed obtain'd 310
By cunning, to the horses sending mares
Without the knowledge of Laomedon.
Six colts were thus engender'd : four of these
In his own stalls he rear'd ; the other two
Gave to Æneas, fear-inspiring chief : 315
These could we win, our praise were great indeed."

Such converse while they held, the twain approach'd,
Their horses urg'd to speed ; then thus began,
To Diomed, Lycaon's noble son :

" Great son of Tydeus, warrior brave and skill'd,
My shaft, it seems, has fail'd to reach thy life ; 321
Try we then now what hap attends my spear."
He said ; and, poising, hurl'd his pond'rous spear,
And struck Tydides' shield ; right through the shield
Drove the keen weapon, and the breastplate reach'd.

Then shouted loud Lycaon's noble son : 326

"Thou hast it through the flank, nor canst thou long
Survive the blow ; great glory now is mine."

To whom, unmov'd, the valiant Diomed :

"Thine aim hath failed, I am not touch'd ; and now
I deem we part not hence till one of ye 331
Glut with his blood th' insatiate Lord of War."

He said: the spear, by Pallas guided, struck
Beside the nostril, underneath the eye ;
Crash'd thro' the teeth, and cutting thro' the tongue
Beneath the angle of the jaw came forth : 336
Down from the car he fell ; and loudly rang
His glitt'ring arms : aside the startled steeds
Sprang devious : from his limbs the spirit fled.
Down leap'd Æneas, spear and shield in hand, 340
Against the Greeks to guard the valiant dead ;
And like a lion, fearless in his strength,
Around the corpse he stalk'd, this way and that,
His spear and buckler round before him held,
To all who dar'd approach him threat'ning death, 345
With fearful shouts ; a rocky fragment then
Tydides lifted up, a mighty mass,

Which scarce two men could raise, as men are now :

But he, unaided, lifted it with ease.

With this he smote Æneas near the groin, 350

Where the thigh-bone, inserted in the hip,

Turns in the socket-joint ; the rugged mass

The socket crush'd, and both the tendons broke,

And tore away the flesh : down on his knees;

Yet resting on his hand, the hero fell ; 355

And o'er his eyes the shades of darkness spread.

Then had Æneas, King of men, been slain,

Had not his mother, Venus, child of Jove,

Who to Anchises, where he fed his flocks,

The hero bore, his peril quickly seen : 360

Around her son she threw her snowy arms,

And with a veil, thick-folded, wrapt him round,

From hostile spears to guard him, lest some Greek

Should pierce his breast, and rob him of his life.

She from the battle thus her son removed ; 365

Nor did the son of Capaneus neglect

The strict injunction by Tydides giv'n ;

His reins attaching to the chariot-rail,

Far from the battle-din he check'd, and left,

His own fleet steeds ; then rushing forward, seiz'd, 370
And from the Trojans tow'rd the camp drove off,
The sleek-skinn'd horses of Æneas' car.

These to Deipylus, his chosen friend,
He gave, of all his comrades best esteem'd,
Of soundest judgment, tow'rd the ships to drive. 375
Then, his own car remounting, seiz'd the reins,
And urg'd with eager haste his fiery steeds,
Seeking Tydides ; he, meanwhile, press'd on
In keen pursuit of Venus ; her he knew
A weak, unwarlike Goddess, not of those 380
That like Bellona fierce, or Pallas, range
Exulting through the blood-stain'd fields of war.

Her, searching thro' the crowd, at length he found,
And springing forward, with his pointed spear
A wound inflicted on her tender hand. 385
Piercing th' ambrosial veil, the Graces' work,
The sharp spear graz'd her palm below the wrist.
Forth from the wound th' immortal current flow'd,
Pure ichor, life-stream of the blessed Gods ;
They eat no bread, they drink no ruddy wine, 390
And bloodless thence and deathless they become.

The Goddess shriek'd aloud, and dropp'd her son ;
But in his arms Apollo bore him off
In a thick cloud envelop'd, lest some Greek
Might pierce his breast, and rob him of his life. 395

Loud shouted brave Tydides, as she fled :
“ Daughter of Jove, from battle-fields retire ;
Enough for thee weak woman to delude ;
If war thou seek'st, the lesson thou shalt learn
Shall cause thee shudder but to hear it nam'd.” 400

Thus he ; but ill at ease, and sorely pain'd,
The Goddess fled : her, Iris, swift as wind,
Caught up, and from the tumult bore away,
Weeping with pain, her fair skin soil'd with blood.

Mars on the left hand of the battle-field 405
She found, his spear reclining by his side,
And, veil'd in cloud, his ear and flying steeds.
Kneeling, her brother she besought to lend
The flying steeds, with golden frontlets crown'd :

“ Dear brother, aid me hence, and lend thy ear 410
To bear me to Olympus, seat of Gods ;
Great is the pain I suffer from a wound
Receiv'd from Diomed, a mortal man,

Who now would dare with Jove himself to fight."

He lent the steeds, with golden frontlets crown'd ;
In deep distress she mounted on the car : 416
Beside her Iris stood, and took the reins,
And urg'd the coursers ; nothing loth they flew,
And soon to high Olympus, seat of Gods,
They came : swift Iris there the coursers stay'd, 420
Loos'd from the chariot, and before them plac'd
Ambrosial forage : on her mother's lap,
Dione, Venus fell ; she in her arms
Embrac'd, and sooth'd her with her hand, and said :
"Which of the heav'nly pow'rs hath wrong'd thee thus,
My child, as guilty of some open shame?" 426

Whom answer'd thus the laughter-loving Queen ;
"The haughty son of Tydeus, Diomed,
Hath wounded me, because my dearest son,
Æneas, from the field I bore away. 430
No more 'twixt Greeks and Trojans is the fight,
But with the Gods themselves the Greeks contend."
To whom Dione, heav'nly Goddess, thus :
"Have patience, dearest child ; though much enforc'd,
Restrain thine anger : we, in Heav'n who dwell, 435

Have much to bear from mortals ; and ourselves
Too oft upon each other suff'rings lay.
Mars had his suff'rings ; by Alöeus' sons,
Otus and Ephialtes, strongly bound,
He thirteen months in brazen fetters lay : 440
And there had pin'd away the God of War,
Insatiate Mars, had not their step-mother,
The beauteous Eribœa, sought the aid
Of Hermes ; he by stealth releas'd the God,
Sore worn and wasted by his galling chains. 445
Juno too suffer'd, when Amphitryon's son
Through her right breast a three-barb'd arrow sent :
Dire, and unheard of, were the pangs she bore.
Great Pluto's self the stinging arrow felt,
When that same son of ægis-bearing Jove 450
Assail'd him in the very gates of hell,
And wrought him keenest anguish ; pierc'd with pain
To high Olympus, to the courts of Jove,
Groaning, he came ; the bitter shaft remain'd
Deep in his shoulder fix'd, and griev'd his soul. 455
But soon with soothing ointments Pæon's hand
(For death on him was powerless) heal'd the wound.

Accurs'd was he, of daring over-bold,
Reckless of evil deeds, who with his bow
Assail'd the Gods, who on Olympus dwell. 460
The blue-ey'd Pallas, well I know, has urg'd
Tydides to assail thee; fool and blind!
Unknowing he how short his term of life
Who fights against the Gods! for him no child
Upon his knees shall lisp a father's name, 465
Safe from the war and battle-field return'd.
Brave as he is, let Diomed beware
He meet not some more dangerous foe than thee.
Then fair Ægiale, Adrastus' child,
The noble wife of valiant Diomed, 470
Shall long, with lamentations loud, disturb
The slumbers of her house, and vainly mourn
Her youthful Lord, the bravest of the Greeks."

She said; and wip'd the ichor from the wound;
The hand was heal'd, the grievous pains allay'd. 475
But Juno and Minerva, looking on,
With words of bitter mock'ry Saturn's son
Provok'd: and thus the blue-ey'd Goddess spoke:
"O Father! may I speak without offence?"

Venus, it seems, has sought to lead astray 480
Some Grecian woman, and persuade to join
Those Trojans, whom she holds in high esteem ;
And, as her hand the gentle dame caress'd,
A golden clasp has scratch'd her slender arm."

Thus she: and smil'd the Sire of Gods and men ; 485
He call'd the golden Venus to his side,
And, "Not to thee, my child," he said, "belong
The deeds of war ; do thou bestow thy care
On deeds of love, and tender marriage ties ;
But leave to Mars and Pallas feats of arms." 490

Such converse while they held, brave Diomed
Again assail'd Æneas ; well he knew
Apollo's guardian hand around him thrown ;
Yet by the God undaunted, on he press'd
To slay Æneas, and his arms obtain. 495
Thrice was his onset made, with murd'rous aim ;
And thrice Apollo struck his glitt'ring shield ;
But when, with godlike force, he sought to make
His fourth attempt, the Far-destroyer spoke
In terms of awful menace : "Be advis'd, 500
Tydides, and retire ; nor as a God

Esteem thyself; since not alike the race
Of Gods immortal and of earth-born men."

He said; and Diomed a little space
Before the Far-destroyer's wrath retir'd: 505

Apollo then Æneas bore away
Far from the tumult; and in Pergamus,
Where stood his sacred shrine, bestow'd him safe.

Latona there, and Dian, Archer-Queen,
In the great temple's innermost recess, 510

Gave to his wounds their care, and sooth'd his pride.

Meanwhile Apollo of the silver bow

A phantom form prepar'd, the counterpart
Of great Æneas, and alike in arms:

Around the form, of Trojans and of Greeks, 515

Loud was the din of battle; fierce the strokes
That fell on rounded shield of tough bull's-hide,
And lighter targe, before each warrior's breast.

Then thus Apollo to the God of War:

"Mars! Mars! thou bane of mortals, blood-stain'd Lord,
Razer of cities, wer't not well thyself 521

To interpose, and from the battle-field

Withdraw this chief, Tydides? such his pride,

He now would dare with Jove himself to fight.
Venus, of late, he wounded in the wrist ; 525
And, like a God, but now confronted me.”
He said, and sat on Ilium's topmost height :
While Mars, in likeness of the Thracian chief,
Swift Acamas, amid the Trojan ranks
Mov'd to and fro, and urg'd them to the fight. 530
To Priam's Heav'n-descended sons he call'd ;
“ Ye sons of Priam, Heav'n-descended King,
How long will ye behold your people slain ?
Till to your very doors the war be brought ?
Æneas, noble-soul'd Anchises' son, 535
In like esteem with Hector held, is down ;
On to his aid ! our gallant comrade save ! ”

He said ; his words fresh courage gave to all :
Then thus Sarpedon, in reproachful tone,
Address'd the godlike Hector : “ Where is now, 540
Hector, the spirit that heretofore was thine ?
'Twas once thy boast that ev'n without allies
Thyself, thy brethren, and thy house, alone
The city could defend : for all of these
I look in vain, and see not one ; they all, 545

As curs around a lion, cow'r and crouch :
We, strangers and allies, maintain the fight.
I to your aid, from lands afar remote,
From Lycia came, by Xanthus' eddying stream ;
There left a cherish'd wife, and infant son, 550
And rich possessions, which might envy move ;
Yet I my troops encourage ; and myself
Have play'd my part, though nought have I to lose,
Nought that the Greeks could drive or bear away ;
But thou stand'st idly by ; nor bidd'st the rest 555
Maintain their ground, and guard their wives and homes.
Beware lest ye, as in the meshes caught
Of some wide-sweeping net, become the prey
And booty of your foes, who soon shall lay
Your prosp'rous city level with the dust. 560
By day and night should this thy thoughts engage,
With constant pray'r to all thy brave allies,
Firmly to stand, and wipe this shame away."

He said ; and Hector felt the biting speech ;
Down from his ear he leap'd ; and through the ranks,
Two jav'lins brandishing, he pass'd, to arms 566
Exciting all, and rais'd his battle-cry.

The tide was turn'd ; again they fac'd the Greeks :
In serried ranks the Greeks, undaunted, stood.
As when the wind from off a threshing-floor, 570
Where men are winnowing, blows the chaff away ;
When yellow Ceres with the breeze divides
The corn and chaff, which lies in whit'ning heaps ;
So thick the Greeks were whiten'd o'er with dust,
Which to the brazen vault of Heav'n arose 575
Beneath the horses' feet, that with the crowd
Were mingled, by their drivers turn'd to flight.
Unwearied still, they bore the brunt ; but Mars
The Trojans succouring, the battle-field
Veil'd in thick clouds, from ev'ry quarter brought. 580
Thus he of Phœbus of the golden sword
Obey'd th' injunction, bidding him arouse
The courage of the Trojans, when he saw
Pallas approaching to support the Greeks.
Then from the wealthy shrine Apollo's self 585
Æneas brought, and vigour fresh infus'd :
Amid his comrades once again he stood ;
They joy'd to see him yet alive, and sound,
And full of vigour ; yet no question ask'd :

No time for question then, amid the toils 590

Impos'd by Phœbus of the silver bow,

And blood-stain'd Mars, and Discord unappeas'd.

Meanwhile Ulysses, and th' Ajaces both,

And Diomed, with courage for the fight

The Grecian force inspir'd ; they undismay'd 595

Shrank not before the Trojans' rush and charge ;

In masses firm they stood, as when the clouds

Are gather'd round the misty mountain top

By Saturn's son, in breathless calm, while sleep

The force of Boreas and the stormy winds, 600

That with their breath the shadowy clouds disperse ;

So stood the Greeks, nor shunn'd the Trojans' charge.

Through all the army Agamemnon pass'd,

X And cried, " Brave comrades, quit ye now like men ;

Bear a stout heart ; and in the stubborn fight, 605

Let each to other mutual succour give ;

By mutual succour more are sav'd than fall ;

In timid flight nor fame nor safety lies."

Thus he : and straight his jav'lin threw, and struck

A man of mark, Æneas' faithful friend, 610

Deieöon, the son of Pergasus,

By Troy, as ever foremost in the field,
In equal honour held with Priam's sons.
His shield the monarch Agamemnon struck ;
The shield's defence was vain; the spear pass'd through
Beneath the belt, and in his groin was lodg'd ; 616
Thund'ring he fell, and loud his armour rang.

On th' other side, Æneas slew two chiefs,
The bravest of the Greeks, Orsilochus
And Crethon, sons of Diocles, who dwelt 620
In thriving Phera ; rich in substance he,
And from the mighty River Alpheus trac'd
His high descent, who through the Pylian land
His copious waters pours ; to him was born
Orsilochus, of num'rous tribes the chief ; 625
To him succeeded valiant Diocles ;
To whom were born twin sons, Orsilochus
And Crethon, skill'd in ev'ry point of war.
They, in the vigour of their youth, to Troy
Had sail'd amid the dark-ribb'd ships of Greece, 630
Of Atreus' sons the quarrel to uphold ;
But o'er them both the shades of death were spread.
As two young lions, by their tawny dam

Nurs'd in the mountain forest's deep recess,
On flocks and herds their youthful fury pour, 635
With havoc to the sheepfolds, till themselves
Succumb, o'ermaster'd by the hand of man :
So fell these two beneath Æneas' hand,
And like two lofty pines in death they lay.

 The warlike Menelæus saw their fall 640
With pitying eye ; and through the foremost ranks
With brandish'd spear advanc'd, by Mars impell'd,
Who hop'd his death by great Æneas' hand.
Him Nestor's son, Antilochus, beheld,
And hasten'd to his aid ; for much he fear'd 645
Lest ill befall the monarch, and his death
Deprive them of their warlike labours' fruit.
They two, with force combined of hand and spear,
Press'd onward to the fight ; Antilochus
His station keeping close beside the King. 650
Before the two combined, Æneas fear'd,
Bold warrior as he was, to hold his ground.
The slain they drew within the Grecian lines,
Placed in their comrades' hands, and turning back
Amid the foremost mingled in the fray. 655

Then, brave as Mars, Pylæmenes they slew,
The buckler'd Paphlagonians' warlike chief;
Him Menelæus, hand to hand engag'd,
Pierc'd with a spear-thrust through the collar-bone;
While, with a pond'rous stone, Antilochus 660
Full on the elbow smote Atymnius' son,
Mydon, his charioteer, in act to turn
His fiery steeds to flight; down from his hands
Fell to the ground the iv'ry-mounted reins.
On rush'd Antilochus, and with his sword 665
Across the temples smote him; gasping, he
Upon his neck and shoulders from the car
Pitch'd headlong; and (for there the sand was deep)
Awhile stood balanc'd, till the horses' feet
Dash'd him upon the ground; Antilochus, 670
The horses seizing, drove them to the ships.

Hector beheld athwart the ranks, and rush'd,
Loud shouting, to th' encounter; at his back
Follow'd the thronging bands of Troy, by Mars
And fierce Bellona led; she by the hand 675
Wild Uproar held; while Mars a giant spear
Brandish'd aloft: and stalking now before,

Now following after Hector, urg'd them on.

Quail'd at the sight the valiant Diomed :

As when a man, long journeying o'er the plain, 680

All unprepar'd, stands sudden on the brink

Of a swift stream, down rushing to the sea,

Boiling with foam, and back recoils ; so then

Recoil'd Tydides, and address'd the crowd :

“ O friends, we marvel at the might display'd 685

By Hector, spearman skill'd and warrior bold ;

But still some guardian God his steps attends,

And shields from danger ; now beside him stands,

In likeness of a mortal, Mars himself.

Then turning still your faces to your foes, 690

Retire, nor venture with the Gods to fight.”

He said ; the Trojans now were close at hand,

And, mounted both upon a single car,

Two chiefs, Menesthes and Anchialus,

Well skill'd in war, by Hector's hand were slain. 695

With pitying eyes great Ajax Telamon

Beheld their fall ; advancing close, he throw

His glitt'ring spear ; the son of Selagus

It struck, Amphius, who in Præsus dwelt,

In land and substance rich ; by evil fate 700

Impell'd, to Priam's house he brought his aid.

Below the belt the spear of Ajax struck,

And in his groin the point was buried deep ;

Thund'ring he fell ; then forward Ajax sprang

To seize the spoils of war ; but fast and fierce 705

The Trojans show'r'd their weapons bright and keen,

And many a lance the mighty shield receiv'd.

Ajax, his foot firm planted on the slain,

Withdrew the brazen spear ; yet could not strip

His armour off, so galling flew the shafts ; 710

And much he fear'd his foes might hem him in,

Who closely press'd upon him, many and brave ;

And, valiant as he was, and tall, and strong,

Still drove him backward ; he perforce retired.

Thus labour'd they amid the stubborn fight. 715

Then evil fate induc'd Tlepolemus,

Valiant and strong, the son of Hercules,

Heav'n-born Sarpedon to confront in fight.

When near they came, of cloud-compelling Jove

Grandson and son, Tlepolemus began : 720

" Sarpedon, Lycian chief, what brings thee here,

Trembling and crouching, all unskill'd in war?
Falsely they speak who fable thee the son
Of ægis-bearing Jove ; so far art thou
Beneath their mark who claim'd in elder days 725
That royal lineage : such my father was,
Of courage resolute, of lion heart.
With but six ships, and with a scanty band,
The horses by Laomedon withheld
Avenging, he o'erthrew this city, Troy, 730
And made her streets a desert ; but thy soul
Is poor, thy troops are wasting fast away ;
Nor deem I that the Trojans will in thee
(Ev'n were thy valour more) and Lycia's aid
Their safeguard find ; but vanquish'd by my hand, 735
This day the gates of Hades thou shalt pass."

To whom the Lycian chief, Sarpedon, thus :
"Tlepolemus, the sacred walls of Troy
Thy sire o'erthrew, by folly of one man,
Laomedon, who with injurious words 740
His noble service recompens'd ; nor gave
The promis'd steeds, for which he came from far.
For thee, I deem thou now shalt meet thy doom

Here, at my hand ; on thee my spear shall win
Renown for me, thy soul to Hades send." 745

Thus as Sarpedon spoke, Tlepolemus
Uprais'd his ashen spear ; from both their hands
The pond'rous weapons simultaneous flew.
Full in the throat Tlepolemus receiv'd
Sarpedon's spear ; right through the neck it pass'd, 750
And o'er his eyes the shades of death were spread.
On th' other side his spear Sarpedon struck
On the left thigh ; the eager weapon pass'd
Right through the flesh, and in the bone was fix'd ;
The stroke of death his father turn'd aside. 755

Sarpedon from the field his comrades bore,
Weigh'd down and tortured by the trailing spear ,
For, in their haste to bear him to his car,
Not one bethought him from his thigh to draw
The weapon forth ; so sorely were they press'd. 760

The Greeks too from the battle-field convey'd
The slain Tlepolemus ; Ulysses saw,
Patient of spirit, but deeply mov'd at heart ;
And with conflicting thoughts his breast was torn,
If first he should pursue the Thund'rer's son, 765

Or deal destruction on the Lycian host.

But fate had not decreed the valiant son

Of Jove to fall beneath Ulysses' hand ;

So on the Lycians Pallas turn'd his wrath.

Alastor then, and Cœranus he slew,

770

Chromius, Alcander, Halius, Prytanis,

Nöemon ; nor had ended then the list

Of Lycian warriors by Ulysses slain ;

But Hector of the glancing helm beheld ;

Through the front ranks he rush'd, with burnish'd crest

Resplendent, flashing terror on the Greeks ;

776

With joy Sarpedon saw his near approach,

And with imploring tones address'd him thus :

“ Hector, thou son of Priam, leave me not

A victim to the Greeks, but lend thine aid :

780

Then in your city let me end my days :

For not to me is giv'n again to see

My native land ; or, safe returning home,

To glad my sorrowing wife and infant child.”

Thus he ; but Hector, answ'ring not a word,

785

Pass'd on in silence, hasting to pursue

The Greeks, and pour destruction on their host.

Beneath the oak of ægis-bearing Jove
His faithful comrades laid Sarpedon down,
And from his thigh the valiant Pelagon, 790
His lov'd companion, drew the ashen spear.
He swoon'd, and giddy mists o'erspread his eyes :
But soon reviv'd, as on his forehead blew,
While yet he gasp'd for breath, the cooling breeze.

By Mars and Hector of the brazen helm 795
The Greeks hard-press'd, yet fled not to their ships,
Nor yet sustain'd the fight ; but back retir'd
Soon as they learned the presence of the God.
Say then who first, who last, the prowess felt
Of Hector, Priam's son, and mail-clad Mars ? 800
The godlike Teuthras first, Orestes next,
Bold charioteer ; th' Ætolian spearman skill'd,
Trechus, Ænomäus, and Helenus,
The son of Ænops ; and Oresbius, girt
With sparkling girdle ; he in Hyla dwelt, 805
The careful Lord of boundless wealth, beside
Cephisus' marshy banks ; Bœotia's chiefs
Around him dwelt, on fat and fertile soil.
Juno, the white-arm'd Queen, who saw these two

The Greeks destroying in the stubborn fight, 810
To Pallas thus her wingèd words address'd :

“ O Heav'n ! brave child of ægis-bearing Jove,
Vain was our word to Menelæus giv'n.

That he the well-built walls of Troy should raze,
And safe return, if unrestrain'd we leave 815
Ferocious Mars to urge his mad career.

Come then ; let us too mingle in the fray.”

She said : and Pallas, blue-ey'd Maid, complied.
Offspring of Saturn, Juno, heav'nly Queen,
Herself th' immortal steeds caparison'd, 820
Adorn'd with golden frontlets : to the car
Hebe the circling wheels of brass attach'd,
Eight-spok'd, that on an iron axle turn'd ;
The felloes were of gold, and fitted round
With brazen tires, a marvel to behold ; 825
The naves were silver, rounded every way :
The chariot-board on gold and silver bands
Was hung, and round it ran a double rail :
The pole was all of silver ; at the end
A golden yoke, with golden yoke-bands fair : 830
And Juno, all on fire to join the fray,

Beneath the yoke the flying coursers led.

Pallas, the child of ægis-bearing Jove,
Within her father's threshold dropp'd her veil,
Of airy texture, work of her own hands ; 835

The cuirass donn'd of cloud-compelling Jove,
And stood accoutred for the bloody fray.

Her tassell'd ægis round her shoulders next
She threw, with Terror circled all around ;
And on its face were figur'd deeds of arms, 840

And Strife, and Courage high, and panic Rout ;

There too a Gorgon's head, of monstrous size,
Frown'd terrible, portent of angry Jove :

And on her head a golden helm she plac'd,
Four-crested, double-peak'd, whose ample verge 845

A hundred cities' champions might suffice :

Her fiery ear she mounted : in her hand

A spear she bore, long, weighty, tough ; wherewith
The mighty daughter of a mighty sire

Sweeps down the ranks of those her hate pursues. 850

Then Juno sharply touch'd the flying steeds :

Forthwith spontaneous opening, grated harsh
The heavenly portals, guarded by the Hours,

Who Heav'n and high Olympus have in charge
To roll aside, or draw the veil of cloud. 855

Through these th' excited horses held their way.
They found the son of Saturn, from the Gods
Sitting apart, upon the highest crest
Of many-ridg'd Olympus ; there arriv'd,
The white-arm'd Goddess Juno stay'd her steeds, 860
And thus address'd the Sov'reign Lord of Heav'n :

X “ O Father Jove ! canst thou behold unmov'd
The violence of Mars ? how many Greeks,
Reckless and uncontroll'd, he hath destroy'd ;
To me a source of bitter grief ; meanwhile 865
Venus and Phœbus of the silver bow
Look on, well pleas'd, who sent this madman forth,
To whom both law and justice are unknown.
Say, Father Jove, shall I thine anger move,
If with disgrace I drive him from the field ? ” 870

To whom the Cloud-compeller thus replied :
“ Go, send against him Pallas ; she, I know,
Hath oft inflicted on him grievous pain.”

He said : the white-arm'd Queen with joy obey'd ;
She urg'd her horses ; nothing loth, they flew 875

Midway between the earth and starry Heav'n :
Far as his sight extends, who from on high
Looks from his watch-tow'r o'er the dark-blue sea,
So far at once the neighing horses bound.
But when to Troy they came, beside the streams 880
Where Simöis' and Scamander's waters meet,
The white-arm'd Goddess stay'd her flying steeds,
Loos'd from the car, and veil'd in densest cloud.
For them, at bidding of the river-God,
Ambrosial forage grew : the Goddesses, 885
Swift as the wild wood-pigeon's rapid flight,
Sped to the battle-field to aid the Greeks.
But when they reach'd the thickest of the fray,
Where throng'd around the might of Diomed
The bravest and the best, as lions fierce, 890
Or forest-boars, the mightiest of their kind,
There stood the white-arm'd Queen, and call'd aloud,
In form of Stentor, of the brazen voice,
Whose shout was as the shout of fifty men :
“ Shame on ye, Greeks, base cowards ! brave alone
In outward semblance ; while Achilles yet 896
Went forth to battle, from the Dardan gates

The Trojans never ventur'd to advance,
So dreaded they his pond'rous spear; but now
Far from the walls, beside your ships, they fight." 900

She said: her words their drooping courage rous'd.
Meanwhile the blue-ey'd Pallas went in haste
In search of Tydeus' son; beside his car
She found the King, in act to cool the wound
Inflicted by the shaft of Pandarus: 905

Beneath his shield's broad belt the clogging sweat
Oppress'd him, and his arm was faint with toil;
The belt was lifted up, and from the wound
He wip'd the clotted blood: beside the car
The Goddess stood, and touch'd the yoke, and said:

"Little like Tydeus' self is Tydeus' son: 911
Low was his stature, but his spirit was high:
And ev'n when I from combat rashly wag'd
Would fain have kept him back, what time in Thebes
He found himself, an envoy and alone, 915
Without support, among the Thebans all,
I counsell'd him in peace to share the feast:
But by his own impetuous courage led,
He challenged all the Thebans to contend

With him in wrestling, and o'erthrew them all 920

With ease ; so mighty was the aid I gave.

Thee now I stand beside, and guard from harm,

And bid thee boldly with the Trojans fight.

But, if the labours of the battle-field

O'ertask thy limbs, or heartless fear restrain, 925

No issue thou of valiant Tydeus' loins."

Whom answer'd thus the valiant Diomed :

" I know thee, Goddess, who thou art ; the child

Of ægis-bearing Jove : to thee my mind

I freely speak, nor aught will I conceal. 930

Nor heartless fear, nor hesitating doubt,

Restrain me ; but I bear thy words in mind,

With other of th' Immortals not to fight :

But should Jove's daughter, Venus, dare the fray,

At her I need not shun to throw my spear. 935

Therefore I thus withdrew, and others too

Exhorted to retire, since Mars himself

I saw careering o'er the battle-field."

To whom the blue-ey'd Goddess, Pallas, thus :

" Thou son of Tydeus, dearest to my soul, 940

Fear now no more with Mars himself to fight,

Nor other God ; such aid will I bestow.
Come then ; at him the first direct thy car ;
Encounter with him hand to hand ; nor fear
To strike this madman, this incarnate curse, 945
This shameless renegade ; who late agreed
With Juno and with me to combat Troy,
And aid the Grecian cause ; who now appears,
The Greeks deserting, in the Trojan ranks."

Thus Pallas spoke, and stretching forth her hand,
Backward his comrade Sthenelus she drew 951
From off the chariot ; down in haste he sprang.
His place beside the valiant Diomed
The eager Goddess took ; beneath the weight
Loud groan'd the oaken axle ; for the car 955
A mighty Goddess and a Hero bore.
Then Pallas took the whip and reins, and urg'd
Direct at Mars the fiery coursers' speed.

The bravest of th' Ætolians, Periphas,
Ochesius' stalwart son, he just had slain, 960
And stood in act to strip him of his arms.
The helmet then of Darkness Pallas donn'd,
To hide her presence from the sight of Mars :

But when the blood-stain'd God of War beheld
Advancing tow'rd him godlike Diomed, 965
The corpse of stalwart Periphas he left,
There where he fell, to lie ; while he himself
Of valiant Diomed th' encounter met.

When near they came, first Mars his pond'rous spear
Advane'd beyond the yoke and horses' reins, 970
With murd'rous aim ; but Pallas from the car
Turn'd it aside, and foil'd the vain attempt.

Then Diomed thrust forward in his turn
His pond'rous spear ; low on the flank of Mars,
Guided by Pallas, with successful aim, 975
Just where the belt was girt, the weapon struck :
It pierc'd the flesh, and straight was back withdrawn :
Then Mars cried out aloud, with such a shout
As if nine thousand or ten thousand men
Should simultaneous raise their battle-cry : 980
Trojans and Greeks alike in terror heard,
Trembling ; so fearful was the cry of Mars.
As black with clouds appears the darken'd air,
When after heat the blust'ring winds arise,
So Mars to valiant Diomed appear'd, 985

As in thick clouds he took his heav'nward flight.
With speed he came to great Olympus' heights,
Th' abode of Gods : and sitting by the throne
Of Saturn's son, with anguish torn, he show'd
Th' immortal stream that trickled from the wound, 990
And thus to Jove his piteous words address'd :

“ O Father Jove, canst thou behold unmov'd
These acts of violence ? the greatest ills
We Gods endure, we each to other owe
Who still in human quarrels interpose. 995
Of thee we all complain ; thy senseless child
Is ever on some evil deed intent.
The other Gods, who on Olympus dwell,
Are all to thee obedient and submiss ;
But thy pernicious daughter, nor by word 1000
Nor deed dost thou restrain ; who now excites
Th' o'erbearing son of Tydeus, Diomed,
Upon th' immortal Gods to vent his rage.
Venus of late he wounded in the wrist,
And, as a God, but now encounter'd me : 1005
Barely I 'scap'd by swiftness of my feet ;
Else, 'mid a ghastly heap of corpses slain,

In anguish had I lain ; and, if alive,
Yet liv'd disabl'd by his weapon's stroke."

Whom answer'd thus the Cloud-compeller, Jove,
With look indignant : " Come no more to me, 1011
Thou wav'ring turncoat, with thy whining pray'rs :
Of all the Gods who on Olympus dwell
I hate thee most ; for thou delight'st in nought
But strife and war ; thou hast inherited 1015
Thy mother, Juno's, proud, unbending mood,
Whom I can scarce control ; and thou, methinks,
To her suggestions ow'st thy present plight.
Yet since thou art my offspring, and to me
Thy mother bore thee, I must not permit 1020
That thou should'st long be doom'd to suffer pain ;
But had thy birth been other than it is,
For thy misdoings thou hadst long ere now
Been banish'd from the Gods' companionship."

He said : and straight to Pæon gave command
To heal the wound ; with soothing anodynes 1026
He heal'd it quickly ; soon as liquid milk
Is curdled by the fig-tree's juice, and turns
In whirling flakes, so soon was heal'd the wound.

By Hebe bath'd, and rob'd afresh, he sat 1030

In health and strength restor'd, by Saturn's son.

Mars thus arrested in his murd'rous course,

Together to th' abode of Jove return'd

The Queen of Argos and the blue-ey'd Maid. 1034

ARGUMENT.

THE EPISODES OF GLAUCUS AND DIOMED, AND OF HECTOR AND ANDROMACHE.

The gods having left the field, the Grecians prevail. Helenus, the chief augur of Troy, commands Hector to return to the city, in order to appoint a solemn procession of the Queen and the Trojan matrons to the temple of Minerva, to entreat her to remove Diomed from the fight. The battle relaxing during the absence of Hector, Glaucus and Diomed have an interview between the two armies; where, coming to the knowledge of the friendship and hospitality past between their ancestors, they make exchange of their arms. Hector, having performed the orders of Helenus, prevailed upon Paris to return to the battle, and taken a tender leave of his wife Andromache, hastens again to the field.

The scene is first in the field of battle, between the rivers Simoïs and Scamander, and then changes to Troy.

BOOK VI.

THE Gods had left the field, and o'er the plain
Hither and thither surg'd the tide of war,
As couch'd th' opposing chiefs their brass-tipp'd spears,
Midway 'twixt Simöis' and Scamander's streams.

First through the Trojan phalanx broke his way 5
The son of Telamon, the prop of Greece,
The mighty Ajax ; on his friends the light
Of triumph shedding, as Eusorus' son
He smote, the noblest of the Thracian bands,
Valiant and strong, the gallant Acamas. 10
Full in the front, beneath the plumèd helm,
The sharp spear struck, and crashing thro' the bone,
The warrior's eyes were clos'd in endless night.

Next valiant Diomed Axylus slew,
The son of Teuthranes, who had his home 15
In fair Arisba ; rich in substance he,
And lov'd of all ; for, dwelling near the road,

He op'd to all his hospitable gate ;
But none of all he entertain'd was there
To ward aside the bitter doom of death : 20
There fell they both, he and his charioteer,
Calesius, who athwart the battle-field
His chariot drove ; one fate o'ertook them both.

Then Dresus and Opheltius of their arms
Euryalus despoil'd ; his hot pursuit 25
Æsepus next, and Pedasus assail'd,
Brothers, whom Abarbarea, Naiad nymph,
To bold Bucolion bore ; Bucolion, son
Of great Laomedon, his eldest born,
x Though bastard : he upon the mountain side, 30
On which his flocks he tended, met the nymph,
And of their secret loves twin sons were born ;
Whom now at once Euryalus of strength
And life depriv'd, and of their armour stripp'd.

By Polypoetes' hand, in battle strong, 35
Was slain Astyalus ; Pidntes fell,
Chief of Percote, by Ulysses' spear ;
And Tencer godlike Aretaon slew.
Antilochus, the son of Nestor, smote

With gleaming lance Ablerus ; Elatus 40

By Agamemnon, King of men, was slain,
Who dwelt by Satnöis' widely-flowing stream,
Upon the lofty heights of Pedasus.

By Lëitus was Phylacus in flight
O'erta'en ; Eurypylus Melanthius slew. 45

Then Meneläus, good in battle, took
Adrastus captiue ; for his horses, scar'd
And rushing wildly o'er the plain, amid
The tangled tamarisk scrub his chariot broke,
Snapping the pole ; they with the flying crowd 50
Held city-ward their course ; he from the car
Hurl'd headlong, prostrate lay beside the wheel,
Prone on his face in dust ; and at his side,
Poising his mighty spear, Atrides stood.

Adrastus clasp'd his knees, and suppliant cried, 55

“ Spare me, great son of Atreus ! for my life

Accept a price ; my wealthy father's house

A goodly store contains of brass, and gold,

And well-wrought iron ; and of these he fain

Would pay a noble ransom, could he hear 60

That in the Grecian ships I yet surviv'd.”

His words to pity mov'd the victor's breast ;
Then had he bade his followers to the ships
The captive bear ; but running up in haste,
Fierce Agamemnon cried in stern rebuke ; 65

X “ Soft-hearted Meneläus, why of life
So tender ? Hath thy house receiv'd indeed
Nothing but benefits at Trojan hands ?
Of that abhorrèd race, let not a man
Escape the deadly vengeance of our arms ; 70
No, not the infant in its mother's womb ;
No, nor the fugitive ; but be they all,
They and their city, utterly destroy'd,
Uncar'd for, and from mem'ry blotted out.”

Thus as he spoke, his counsel, fraught with death,
His brother's purpose chang'd ; he with his hand 76
Adrastus thrust aside, whom with his lance
Fierce Agamemnon through the loins transfix'd ;
And, as he roll'd in death, upon his breast
Planting his foot, the ashen spear withdrew. 80

Then loudly Nestor shouted to the Greeks :
“ Friends, Grecian heroes, ministers of Mars !
Loiter not now behind, to throw yourselves

Upon the prey, and bear it to the ships;
Let all your aim be now to kill; anon 85
Ye may at leisure spoil your slaughter'd foes."

With words like these he fir'd the blood of all.

Now had the Trojans by the warlike Greeks
In coward flight within their walls been driv'n ;
But to Æneas and to Hector thus 90

The son of Priam, Helenus, the best
Of all the Trojan seers, address'd his speech :

“Æneas, and thou Hector, since on you,
Of all the Trojans and the Lycian hosts,
Is laid the heaviest burthen, for that ye

95

Excel alike in council and in fight,
Stand here awhile, and moving to and fro
On ev'ry side, around the gates exhort
The troops to rally, lest they fall disgrac'd,
Flying for safety to their women's arms, 100
And foes, exulting, triumph in their shame.

Their courage thus restor'd, worn as we are,
We with the Greeks will still maintain the fight,
For so, perforce, we must ; but, Hector, thou
Haste to the city ; there our mother find, 105

Both thine and mine ; on Ilium's topmost height
By all the aged dames accompanied,
Bid her the shrine of blue-ey'd Pallas seek ;
Unlock the sacred gates ; and on the knees
Of fair-hair'd Pallas place the fairest robe 110
In all the house, the amplest, best esteem'd ;
And at her altar vow to sacrifice
Twelve yearling kine that never felt the goad,
So she have pity on the Trojan state,
Our wives, and helpless babes, and turn away 115
The fiery son of Tydeus, spearman fierce,
The Minister of Terror ; bravest he,
In my esteem, of all the Grecian chiefs :
For not Achilles' self, the prince of men,
Though Goddess-born, such dread inspir'd ; so fierce 120
His rage ; and with his prowess none may vie."

He said, nor uncomplying, Hector heard
His brother's counsel ; from his car he leap'd
In arms upon the plain ; and brandish'd high
His jav'lines keen, and moving to and fro 125
The troops encourag'd, and restor'd the fight.
Rallying they turn'd, and fac'd again the Greeks :

These ceas'd from slaughter, and in turn gave way,
Deeming that from the starry Heav'n some God
Had to the rescue come ; so fierce they turn'd. 130
Then to the Trojans Hector call'd aloud :

“ Ye valiant Trojans, and renown'd Allies,
Quit you like men ; remember now, brave friends,
Your wonted valour ; I to Ilium go
To bid our wives and rev'rend Elders raise 135
To Heav'n their pray'rs, with vows of hecatombs.”

Thus saying, Hector of the glancing helm
Turn'd to depart ; and as he mov'd along,
The black bull's-hide his neck and ancles smote,
The outer circle of his bossy shield. 140

Then Tydeus' son, and Glaucus, in the midst,
Son of Hippolochus, stood forth to fight ;
But when they near were met, to Glaucus first
The valiant Diomed his speech address'd :
“ Who art thou, boldest man of mortal birth ? 145

For in the glorious conflict heretofore
ne'er have seen thee ; but in daring now
Thou far surpassest all, who hast not fear'd
To face my spear ; of most unhappy sires

The children they, who my encounter meet. 150

But if from Heav'n thou com'st, and art indeed
A God, I fight not with the heav'nly powers.

Not long did Dryas' son, Lyeurgus brave,
Survive, who dar'd th' Immortals to defy :
He, 'mid their frantie orgies, in the groves 155
Of lovely Nyssa, put to shameful rout

The youthful Bacchus' nurses ; they, in fear,
Dropp'd each her thyrsus, scatter'd by the hand
Of fierce Lyeurgus, with an ox-goad arm'd.

Bacchus himself beneath the ocean wave 160

In terror plung'd, and, trembling, refuge found
In Thetis' bosom from a mortal's threats :

The Gods indignant saw, and Saturn's son
Smote him with blindness ; nor surviv'd he long,
Hated alike by all th' immortal Gods. 165

I dare not then the blessed Gods oppose ;
But be thou mortal, and the fruits of earth
Thy food, approach, and quickly meet thy doom."

To whom the noble Glaucus thus replied :

" Great son of Tydeus, why my race enquire ? 170

X The race of man is as the race of leaves :

Of leaves, one generation by the wind
Is scattered on the earth ; another soon
In spring's luxuriant verdure bursts to light.
So with our race ; these flourish, those decay. 175
But if thou wouldst in truth enquire and learn
The race I spring from, not unknown of men ;
There is a city, in the deep recess
Of pastoral Argos, Ephyre by name :
There Sisyphus of old his dwelling had, 180
Of mortal men the craftiest ; Sisyphus,
The son of Æolus ; to him was born
Glaucus ; and Glaucus in his turn begot
Bellerophon, on whom the Gods bestow'd
The gifts of beauty and of manly grace. 185
But Prætus sought his death ; and, mightier far,
From all the coasts of Argos drove him forth,
To Prætus subjected by Jove's decree.
For him the monarch's wife, Antæa, nurs'd
A madd'ning passion, and to guilty love 190
Would fain have tempted him ; but fail'd to move
The upright soul of chaste Bellerophon.
With lying words she then address'd the King :

‘Die, Prætus, thou, or slay Bellerophon,
Who basely sought my honour to assail.’ 195
The King with anger listen’d to her words ;
Slay him he would not ; that his soul abhorr’d ;
But to the father of his wife, the King
Of Lycia, sent him forth, with tokens charg’d
Of dire import, on folded tablets trac’d, 200
Pois’ning the monarch’s mind, to work his death.
To Lycia, guarded by the Gods, he went ;
But when he came to Lycia, and the streams
Of Xanthus, there with hospitable rites
The King of wide-spread Lycia welcom’d him. 205
Nine days he feasted him, nine oxen slew ;
But with the tenth return of rosy morn
He question’d him, and for the tokens ask’d
He from his son-in-law, from Prætus, bore.
The tokens’ fatal import understood, 210
He bade him first the dread Chimæra slay ;
A monster, sent from Heav’n, not human born,
With head of lion, and a serpent’s tail,
And body of a goat ; and from her mouth
There issued flames of fiercely-burning fire : 215

Yet her, confiding in the Gods, he slew.
Next, with the valiant Solymi he fought,
The fiercest fight that e'er he undertook.
Thirdly, the women-warriors he o'erthrew,
The Amazons ; from whom returning home, 220
The King another stratagem devis'd ;
For, choosing out the best of Lycia's sons,
He set an ambush ; they return'd not home,
For all by brave Bellerophon were slain.
But, by his valour when the King perceiv'd 225
His heav'nly birth, he entertain'd him well ;
Gave him his daughter ; and with her the half
Of all his royal honours he bestow'd :
A portion too the Lycians meted out,
Fertile in corn and wine, of all the state 230
The choicest land, to be his heritage.
Three children there to brave Bellerophon
Were born ; Isander, and Hippolochus,
Laodamia last, belov'd of Jove,
The Lord of counsel ; and to him she bore 235
Godlike Sarpedon of the brazen helm.
Bellerophon at length the wrath incurr'd

Of all the Gods ; and to th' Aleian plain
Alone he wander'd ; there he wore away
His soul, and shunn'd the busy haunts of men. 240
Insatiate Mars his son Isander slew
In battle with the valiant Solymi :
His daughter perish'd by Diana's wrath.
I from Hippolochus my birth derive :
To Troy he sent me, and enjoin'd me oft 245
To aim at highest honours, and surpass
My comrades all ; nor on my father's name
Discredit bring, who held the foremost place
In Ephyre, and Lycia's wide domain.
Such is my race, and such the blood I boast." 250

He said ; and Diomed rejoicing heard :
His spear he planted in the fruitful ground,
And thus with friendly words the chief address'd :

“ By ancient ties of friendship are we bound ;
For godlike Ceneus in his house receiv'd 255
For twenty days the brave Bellerophon ;
They many a gift of friendship interchang'd ;
A belt, with crimson glowing, Ceneus gave ;
Bellerophon a double cup of gold,

Which in my house I left when here I came. 260

Of Tydeus no remembrance I retain ;

For yet a child he left me, when he fell

With his Achaians at the gate of Thebes.

So I in Argos am thy friendly host ;

Thou mine in Lycia, when I thither come : 265

'Then shun we, e'en amid the thickest fight,

Each other's lance ; enough there are for me

Of Trojans and their brave allies to kill,

As Heav'n may aid me, and my speed of foot ;

And Greeks enough there are for thee to slay, 270

If so indeed thou canst ; but let us now

Our armour interchange, that these may know

What friendly bonds of old our houses join."

Thus as they spoke, they quitted each his car ;

Clasp'd hand in hand, and plighted mutual faith. 275

Then Glaucus of his judgment Jove depriv'd,

His armour interchanging, gold for brass,

A hundred oxen's worth for that of nine.

Meanwhile, when Hector reach'd the oak beside
The Scæan gate, around him throng'd the wives 280
Of Troy, and daughters, anxious to enquire

The fate of children, brothers, husbands, friends ;
He to the Gods exhorted all to pray,
For deep the sorrows that o'er many hung.

But when to Priam's splendid house he came, 215

With polish'd corridors adorn'd—within

Were fifty chambers, all of polish'd stone,

Plac'd each by other ; there the fifty sons

Of Priam with their wedded wives repos'd ;

On th' other side, within the court were built 290

Twelve chambers, near the roof, of polish'd stone,

Plac'd each by other ; there the sons-in-law

Of Priam with their spouses chaste repos'd ;

To meet him there his tender mother came,

And with her led the young Laodice, 295

Fairest of all her daughters ; clasping then

His hands, she thus address'd him : “ Why, my son.

Why com'st thou here, and leav'st the battle-field ?

Are Trojans by those hateful sons of Greece,

Fighting around the city, sorely press'd ? 300

And com'st thou, by thy spirit mov'd, to raise,

On Ilium's heights, thy hands in pray'r to Jove ?

But tarry till I bring the luscious wine,

That first to Jove, and to th' Immortals all,
Thou mayst thine off'ring pour ; then with the draught
Thyself thou mayst refresh ; for great the strength 306
Which gen'rous wine imparts to men who toil,
As thou hast toil'd, thy comrades to protect."

To whom great Hector of the glancing helm :
"No, not for me, mine honour'd mother, pour 310
The luscious wine, lest thou unnerve my limbs,
And make me all my wonted prowess lose.

The ruddy wine I dare not pour to Jove
With hands unwash'd ; nor to the cloud-girt son
Of Saturn may the voice of pray'r ascend 315
From one with blood bespatter'd and defil'd.

Thou, with the elder women, seek the shrine
Of Pallas ; bring your gifts ; and on the knees
Of fair-hair'd Pallas place the fairest robe
In all the house, the amplest, best esteem'd ; 320
And at her altar vow to sacrifice

Twelve yearling kine, that never felt the goad ;
So she have pity on the Trojan state,
Our wives, and helpless babes ; and turn away
The fiery son of Tydeus, spearman fierce, 325

The Minister of Terror ; to the shrine
Of Pallas thou ; to Paris I, to call
If haply he will hear ; would that the earth
Would gape and swallow him ! for great the curse
That Jove thro' him hath brought on men of Troy, 330
On noble Priam, and on Priam's sons.
Could I but know that he were in his grave,
Methinks my sorrows I could half forget."

He said : she, to the house returning, sent
Th' attendants through the city, to collect 335
The train of aged suppliants ; she meanwhile
Her fragrant chamber sought, wherein were stor'd
Rich garments by Sidonian women work'd,
Whom godlike Paris had from Sidon brought,
Sailing the broad sea o'er, the selfsame path 340
By which the high-born Helen he convey'd.
Of these, the richest in embroidery,
The amplest, and the brightest, as a star
Refulgent, plac'd with care beneath the rest,
The Queen her off'ring bore to Pallas' shrine : 345
She went, and with her many an ancient dame.
But when the shrine they reach'd on Ilium's height,

Theano, fair of face, the gates unlock'd,
Daughter of Cisseus, sage Antenor's wife,
By Trojans nam'd at Pallas' shrine to serve. 350

They with deep moans to Pallas rais'd their hands ;
But fair Theano took the robe, and plac'd
On Pallas' knees, and to the heav'nly Maid,
Daughter of Jove, she thus address'd her pray'r :

“ Guardian of cities, Pallas, awful Queen, 355
Goddess of Goddesses, break thou the spear
Of Tydeus' son ; and grant that he himself
Prostrate before the Scæan gates may fall ;
So at thine altar will we sacrifice

Twelve yearling kine, that never felt the goad, 360
If thou have pity on the state of Troy,
The wives of Trojans, and their helpless babes.”

Thus she ; but Pallas answer'd not her pray'r.
While thus they call'd upon the heav'nly Maid,
Hector to Paris' mansion bent his way ; 365

A noble structure, which himself had built
Aided by all the best artificers
Who in the fertile realm of Troy were known ;
With chambers, hall, and court, on Ilium's height,

Near to where Priam's self and Hector dwelt. 370

There enter'd Hector, well belov'd of Jove ;

And in his hand his pond'rous spear he bore,

Twelve cubits long ; bright flash'd the weapon's point

Of polish'd brass, with circling hoop of gold.

There in his chamber found he whom he sought, 375

About his armour busied, polishing

His shield, his breastplate, and his bended bow.

While Argive Helen, 'mid her maidens plac'd,

The skilful labours of their hands o'erlook'd.

To him thus Hector with reproachful words ; 380

“ Thou dost not well thine anger to indulge ;

In battle round the city's lofty wall

The people fast are falling ; thou the cause

That fiercely thus around the city burns

The flame of war and battle ; and thyself 385

Wouldst others blame, who from the fight should shrink.

Up, ere the town be wrapp'd in hostile fires.”

To whom in answer godlike Paris thus :

“ Hector, I own not causeless thy rebuke ;

Yet will I speak ; hear thou and understand ; 390

'Twas less from anger with the Trojan host,

And fierce resentment, that I here remain'd,
Than that I sought my sorrow to indulge ;
Yet hath my wife, e'en now, with soothing words
Urg'd me to join the battle ; so, I own, 395
'Twere best ; and Vict'ry changes oft her side.
Then stay, while I my armour don ; or thou
Go first : I, following, will o'ertake thee soon."

He said : but Hector of the glancing helm
Made answer none ; then thus with gentle tones 400
Helen accosted him : " Dear brother mine,
(Of me, degraded, sorrow-bringing, vile !)
Oh that the day my mother gave me birth
Some storm had on the mountains cast me forth !
Or that the many-dashing ocean's waves 405
Had swept me off, ere all this woe were wrought !
Yet if these evils were of Heav'n ordain'd,
Would that a better man had call'd me wife ;
A sounder judge of honour and disgrace :
For he, thou know'st, no firmness hath of mind, 410
Nor ever will ; a want he well may rue.
But come thou in, and rest thee here awhile,
Dear brother, on this couch ; for travail sore

Encompasseth thy soul, by me impos'd,
Degraded as I am, and Paris' guilt ; 415
On whom this burthen Heav'n hath laid, that shame
On both our names through years to come shall rest."

To whom great Hector of the glancing helm :
" Though kind thy wish, yet, Helen, ask me not
To sit or rest; I cannot yield to thee : 420
For to the succour of our friends I haste,
Who feel my loss, and sorely need my aid.
But thou thy husband rouse, and let him speed,
That he may find me still within the walls.
For I too homeward go ; to see once more 425
My household, and my wife, and infant child :
For whether I may e'er again return,
I know not, or if Heav'n have so decreed,
That I this day by Grecian hands should fall."

Thus saying, Hector of the glancing helm 430
Turn'd to depart ; with rapid step he reach'd
His own well-furnished house, but found not there
His white-arm'd spouse, the fair Andromache.
She with her infant child and maid the while
Was standing, bath'd in tears, in bitter grief, 435

On Ilium's topmost tower : but when her Lord
Found not within the house his peerless wife,
Upon the threshold pausing, thus he spoke :
“ Tell me, my maidens, tell me true, which way
Your mistress went, the fair Andromache ; 440
Or to my sisters, or my brothers' wives ?
Or to the temple where the fair-hair'd dames
Of Troy invoke Minerva's awful name ? ”

To whom the matron of his house replied :
“ Hector, if truly we must answer thee, 445
Not to thy sisters, nor thy brothers' wives,
Nor to the temple where the fair-hair'd dames
Of Troy invoke Minerva's awful name,
But to the height of Ilium's topmost tow'r
Andromache is gone ; since tidings came 450
The Trojan force was overmatch'd, and great
The Grecian strength ; whereat, like one distract,
She hurried to the walls, and with her took,
Borne in the nurse's arms, her infant child.” 454

So spoke the ancient dame ; and Hector straight
Through the wide streets his rapid steps retrac'd.
But when at last the mighty city's length

Was travers'd, and the Scæan gates were reach'd,
Whence was the outlet to the plain, in haste
Running to meet him came his priceless wife, 460
Eëtion's daughter, fair Andromache ;
Eëtion, who from Thebes Cilicia sway'd,
Thebes, at the foot of Placos' wooded heights.
His child to Hector of the brazen helm
Was giv'n in marriage : she it was who now 465
Met him, and by her side the nurse, who bore,
Clasp'd to her breast, his all unconscious child,
Hector's lov'd infant, fair as morning star ;
Whom Hector call'd Scamandrius, but the rest
Astyanax, in honour of his sire, 470
The matchless chief, the only prop of Troy.
Silent he smil'd as on his boy he gaz'd :
But at his side Andromache, in tears,
Hung on his arm, and thus the chief address'd :
 “ Dear Lord, thy dauntless spirit will work thy doom :
Nor hast thou pity on this thy helpless child, 476
Or me forlorn, to be thy widow soon :
For thee will all the Greeks with force combin'd
Assail and slay : for me, 'twere better far,

Of thee bereft, to lie beneath the sod ; 480
Nor comfort shall be mine, if thou be lost,
But endless grief ; to me nor sire is left,
Nor honour'd mother ; fell Achilles' hand
My sire Eëtion slew, what time his arms
The populous city of Cilicia raz'd, 485
The lofty-gated Thebes ; he slew indeed,
But stripp'd him not ; he reverenc'd the dead ;
And o'er his body, with his armour burnt,
A mound erected ; and the mountain nymphs,
The progeny of ægis-bearing Jove, 490
Planted around his tomb a grove of elms.
There were sev'n brethren in my father's house ;
All in one day they fell, amid their herds
And fleecy flocks, by fierce Achilles' hand.
My mother, Queen of Placos' wooded height, 495
Brought with the captives here, he soon releas'd
For costly ransom ; but by Dian's shafts
She, in her father's house, was stricken down.
But, Hector, thou to me art all in one,
Sire, mother, brethren ! thou, my wedded love ! 500
Then pitying us, within the tow'r remain,

Nor make thy child an orphan, and thy wife
A hapless widow ; by the fig-tree here
Array thy troops ; for here the city wall,
Easiest of access, most invites assault. 505
Thrice have their boldest chiefs this point assail'd,
The two Ajaces, brave Idomeneus,
Th' Atridæ both, and Tydeus' warlike son,
Or by the prompting of some Heav'n-taught seer,
Or by their own advent'rous courage led." 510

To whom great Hector of the glancing helm ;
“ Think not, dear wife, that by such thoughts as these
My heart has ne'er been wrung ; but I should blush
To face the men and long-rob'd dames of Troy,
If, like a coward, I could shun the fight. 515
Nor could my soul the lessons of my youth
So far forget, whose boast it still has been
In the fore-front of battle to be found,
Charg'd with my father's glory and mine own.
Yet in my inmost soul too well I know, 520
The day must come when this our sacred Troy,
And Priam's race, and Priam's royal self
Shall in one common ruin be o'erthrown.

But not the thoughts of Troy's impending fate,
Nor Hecuba's nor royal Priam's woes, 525
Nor loss of brethren, numerous and brave,
By hostile hands laid prostrate in the dust,
So deeply wring my heart as thoughts of thee,
Thy days of freedom lost, and led away
A weeping captive by some brass-clad Greek ; 530
Haply in Argos, at a mistress' beck,
Condemn'd to ply the loom, or water draw
From Hypereia's or Messëis' fount,
Heart-wrung, by stern necessity constrain'd. 534
Then they who see thy tears perchance may say,
'Lo ! this was Hector's wife, who, when they fought
On plains of Troy, was Ilium's bravest chief.'
Thus may they speak ; and thus thy grief renew
For loss of him, who might have been thy shield
To rescue thee from slav'ry's bitter hour. 540
Oh may I sleep in dust, ere be condemn'd
To hear thy cries, and see thee dragg'd away ! "

Thus as he spoke, great Hector stretch'd his arms
To take his child ; but back the infant shrank,
Crying, and sought his nurse's shelt'ring breast, 545

Scar'd by the brazen helm and horse-hair plume,
That nodded, fearful, on the warrior's crest.
Laugh'd the fond parents both, and from his brow
Hector the casque remov'd, and set it down, 549
All glitt'ring, on the ground; then kiss'd his child,
And danc'd him in his arms; then thus to Jove
And to th' Immortals all address'd his pray'r:
“Grant, Jove, and all ye Gods, that this my son
May be, as I, the foremost man of Troy,
For valour fam'd, his country's guardian King; 555
That men may say, ‘This youth surpasses far
His father,’ when they see him from the fight,
From slaughter'd foes, with bloody spoils of war
Returning, to rejoice his mother's heart!”

Thus saying, in his mother's arms he plac'd 560
His child; she to her fragrant bosom clasp'd,
Smiling through tears; with eyes of pitying love
Hector beheld, and press'd her hand, and thus
Address'd her—“Dearest, wring not thus my heart!
For till my day of destiny is come, 565
No man may take my life; and when it comes,
Nor brave nor coward can escape that day.

But go thou home, and ply thy household cares,
The loom and distaff, and appoint thy maids
Their sev'ral tasks ; and leave to men of Troy 570
And, chief of all to me, the toils of war."

Great Hector said, and rais'd his plumèd helm ;
And homeward, slow, with oft-reverted eyes,
Shedding hot tears, his sorrowing wife return'd.
Arriv'd at valiant Hector's well-built house, 575
Her maidens press'd around her ; and in all
Arose at once the sympathetic grief.
For Hector, yet alive, his household mourn'd,
Deeming he never would again return,
Safe from the fight, by Grecian hands unharm'd. 580

Nor linger'd Paris in his lofty halls ;
But donn'd his armour, glitt'ring o'er with brass,
And through the city pass'd with bounding steps.
As some proud steed, at well-fill'd manger fed,
His halter broken, neighing, scours the plain, 585
And revels in the widely-flowing stream
To bathe his sides ; then tossing high his head,
While o'er his shoulders streams his ample mane,
Light borne on active limbs, in conscious pride,

To the wide pastures of the mares he flies ; 590
So Paris, Priam's son, from Ilium's height,
His bright arms flashing like the gorgeous sun,
Hasten'd, with boastful mien, and rapid step.
Hector he found, as from the spot he turn'd
Where with his wife he late had converse held ; 595
Whom thus the godlike Paris first address'd :
“ Too long, good brother, art thou here detain'd,
Impatient for the fight, by my delay ;
Nor have I timely, as thou bad'st me, come.”
To whom thus Hector of the glancing helm : 600
“ My gallant brother, none who thinks aright
Can cavil at thy prowess in the field ;
For thou art very valiant ; but thy will
Is weak and sluggish ; and it grieves my heart,
When from the Trojans, who in thy behalf 605
Such labours undergo, I hear thy name
Coupled with foul reproach ! But go we now !
Henceforth shall all be well, if Jove permit
That from our shores we drive th' invading Greeks,
And to the ever-living Gods of Heav'n 610
In peaceful homes our free libations pour.” 611

ARGUMENT.

THE SINGLE COMBAT OF HECTOR AND AJAX.

The battle renewing with double ardour upon the return of Hector, Minerva is under apprehensions for the Greeks. Apollo, seeing her descend from Olympus, joins her near the Scæan gate. They agree to put off the general engagement for that day, and incite Hector to challenge the Greeks to a single combat. Nine of the princes accepting the challenge, the lot is cast, and falls upon Ajax. These heroes, after several attacks, are parted by the night. The Trojans calling a council, Antenor proposes the delivery of Helen to the Greeks, to which Paris will not consent, but offers to restore them her riches. Priam sends a herald to make this offer, and to demand a truce for burning the dead, the last of which only is agreed to by Agamemnon. When the funerals are performed, the Greeks, pursuant to the advice of Nestor, erect a fortification to protect their fleet and camp, flanked with towers, and defended by a ditch and palisades. Neptune testifies his jealousy at this work, but is pacified by a promise from Jupiter. Both armies pass the night in feasting, but Jupiter disheartens the Trojans with thunder and other signs of his wrath.

The three-and-twentieth day ends with the duel of Hector and Ajax ; the next day the truce is agreed : another is taken up in the funeral rites of the slain ; and one more in building the fortification before the ships ; so that somewhat above three days is employed in this book. The scene lies wholly in the field.

BOOK VII.

THUS as he spoke, from out the city gates
The noble Hector pass'd, and by his side
His brother Paris ; in the breast of both
Burnt the fierce ardour of the battle-field.
As when some God a fav'ring breeze bestows 5
On seamen tugging at the well-worn oar,
Faint with excess of toil, ev'n so appear'd
Those brethren twain to Troy's o'erlabour'd host.
Then to their prowess fell, by Paris' hand
Menesthius, royal Arëithöus' son, 10
Whom to the King, in Arna, where he dwelt,
The stag-ey'd dame Phylomedusa bore ;
While Hector smote, with well-directed spear,
Beneath the brass-bound headpiece, through the throat,
Eioneus, and slack'd his limbs in death ; 15
And Glaucus, leader of the Lycian bands,

Son of Hippolochus, amid the fray
Iphinöus, son of Dexias, borne on high
By two fleet mares upon a lofty car,
Pierc'd through the shoulder ; from the car he fell 20
Prone to the earth, his limbs relax'd in death.
But them when Pallas saw, amid the fray
Dealing destruction on the hosts of Greece,
From high Olympus to the walls of Troy
She came in haste ; Apollo there she found, 25
As down he look'd from Ilium's topmost tow'r,
Devising vict'ry to the arms of Troy.
Beside the oak they met ; Apollo first,
The son of Jove, the colloquy began :
“ Daughter of Jove, from great Olympus' heights, 30
Why com'st thou here, by angry passion led ?
Wouldst thou the vict'ry, swaying here and there,
Give to the Greeks ? since pitiless thou see'st
The Trojans slaughter'd ? Be advis'd by me,
For so 'twere better ; cause we for to-day 35
The rage of battle and of war to cease ;
To-morrow morn shall see the fight renew'd,
Until the close of Ilium's destiny ;

For so ye Goddesses have wrought your will,
That this fair city should in ruin fall." 40

To whom the blue-ey'd Goddess thus replied :
" So be it, Archer-King ; with like intent
I from Olympus came ; but say, what means
Wilt thou devise to bid the conflict cease ?"

To whom Apollo, royal son of Jove : 45
" The might of valiant Hector let us move
To challenge to the combat, man to man,
Some Grecian warrior ; while the brass-clad Greeks
Their champion urge the challenge to accept,
And godlike Hector meet in single fight." 50

He said ; nor did Minerva not assent ;
But Helenus, the son of Priam, knew
The secret counsel by the Gods devis'd ;
And drawing near to Hector, thus he spoke :
" Hector, thou son of Priam, sage as Jove 55
In council, hearken to a brother's words.
Bid that the Greeks and Trojans all sit down,
And thou defy the boldest of the Greeks
With thee in single combat to contend ;
By revelation from th' eternal Gods, 60

I know that here thou shalt not meet thy fate."

He said, and Hector joy'd to hear his words ;
Forth in the midst he stepp'd, and with his spear
Grasp'd in the middle, stay'd the Trojan ranks.

With one accord they sat ; on th' other side 65

Atrides bade the well-greav'd Greeks sit down ;

While, in the likeness of two vultures, sat

On the tall oak of ægis-bearing Jove,

Pallas, and Phœbus of the silver bow,

With heroes' deeds delighted ; dense around 70

Bristled the ranks, with shield, and helm, and spear.

As when the west wind freshly blows, and brings

A dark'ning ripple o'er the ocean waves,

E'en so appear'd upon the plain the ranks

Of Greeks and Trojans ; standing in the midst, 75

Thus to both armies noble Hector spoke :

"Hear, all ye Trojans, and ye well-greav'd Greeks,

The words I speak, the promptings of my soul.

It hath not pleas'd high-thron'd Saturnian Jove

To ratify our truce, who both afflicts 80

With labours hard, till either ye shall take

Our well-fenc'd city, or yourselves to us

Succumb beside your ocean-going ships.

Here have ye all the chiefest men of Greece ;

Of all, let him who dares with me to fight, 85

Stand forth, and godlike Hector's might confront.

And this I say, and call to witness Jove,

If with the sharp-edg'd spear he vanquish me,

He shall strip off, and to the hollow ships

In triumph bear my armour ; but my corpse 90

Restore, that so the men and wives of Troy

May deck with honours due my funeral pyre.

But, by Apollo's grace should I prevail,

I will his arms strip off and bear to Troy,

And in Apollo's temple hang on high ; 95

But to the ships his corpse I will restore,

That so the long-hair'd Greeks with solemn rites

May bury him, and to his men'ry raise

By the broad Hellespont a lofty tomb ;

And men in days to come shall say, who urge 100

Their full-oar'd bark across the dark-blue sea,

' Lo there a warrior's tomb of days gone by,

A mighty chief, whom glorious Hector slew :'

Thus shall they say, and thus my fame shall live."

Thus Hector spoke ; they all in silence heard, 105
Sham'd to refuse, but fearful to accept.

At length in anger Meneläus rose,
Groaning in spirit, and with bitter words
Reproach'd them: "Shame, ye braggart cowards, shame!
Women of Greece ! I cannot call you men ! 110
'Twere foul disgrace indeed, and scorn on scorn,
If Hector's challenge none of all the Greeks
Should dare accept ; to dust and water turn
All ye who here inglorious, heartless sit !
I will myself confront him ; for success, 115
Th' immortal Gods above the issues hold."

Thus as he spoke, he donn'd his dazzling arms.
Then, Meneläus, had thine end approach'd
By Hector's hands, so much the stronger he,
Had not the Kings withheld thee and restrain'd. 120
Great Agamemnon's self, wide-ruling King,
Seizing his hand, address'd him thus by name :
" What ! Heav'n-born Meneläus, art thou mad ?
Beseems thee not such folly ; curb thy wrath,
Though vex'd ; nor think with Hector to contend, 125
Thy better far, inspiring dread in all.

From his encounter in the glorious fight,
Superior far to thee, Achilles shrinks ;
But thou amid thy comrades' ranks retire ;
Some other champion will the Greeks provide ; 130
And, fearless as he is, and of the fight
Insatiate, yet will Hector, should he 'scape
Unwounded from the deadly battle-strife,
Be fain, methinks, to rest his weary limbs."

He said, and with judicious counsel sway'd 135
His brother's mind ; he yielded to his words,
And gladly his attendants doff'd his arms.

Then Nestor rose, and thus address'd the Greeks :
" Alas, alas ! what shame is this for Greece !
What grief would fill the aged Peleus' soul, 140
Sage chief in council, of the Myrmidons
Leader approv'd, who often in his house
Would question me, and lov'd from me to hear
Of all the Greeks the race and pedigree,
Could he but learn how Hector cow'd them all ! 145
He to the Gods with hands uprais'd would pray
His soul might from his body be divorce'd,
And sink beneath the earth ! Oh would to Jove,

To Pallas and Apollo, such were now
My vig'rous youth, as when beside the banks 150
Of swiftly-flowing Celadon, the men
Of Pylos with th' Arcadian spearmen fought,
By Pheia's walls, around Iardan's streams.
Then from the ranks, in likeness as a God,
Advanc'd their champion, Ereuthalion bold. 155
The arms of Arëithöus he wore :
Of godlike Arëithöus, whom men
And richly-girdled women had surnam'd
The Macebearer ; for not with sword or bow
He went to fight, but with an iron mace 160
Broke through the squadrons : him Lyeurgus slew,
By stealth, not brav'ry, in a narrow way,
Where nought avail'd his iron mace from death
To save him ; for Lyeurgus, with his spear,
Preventing, thrust him through the midst ; he fell 165
Prostrate ; and from his breast the victor stripp'd
His armour off, the gift of brass-clad Mars ;
And in the tug of war he wore it oft ;
But when Lyeurgus felt th' approach of age,
He to his faithful follower and friend, 170

To Ereuthalion gave it ; therewith arm'd,
He now to combat challeng'd all the chiefs.
None dar'd accept, for fear had fallen on all ;
Then I with dauntless spirit his might oppos'd,
The youngest of them all ; with him I fought, 175
And Pallas gave the vict'ry to my arm.
Him there I slew, the tallest, strongest man ;
For many another there beside him lay.
Would that my youth and strength were now the same ;
Then soon should Hector of the glancing helm 180
A willing champion find ; but ye, of Greece
The foremost men, with Hector fear to fight."

The old man spoke reproachful ; at his words
Up rose nine warriors : far before the rest,
The monarch Agamemnon, King of men ; 185
Next Tydeus' son, the valiant Diomed ;
The two Ajaces, cloth'd with courage high ;
Idomeneus, and of Idomeneus
The faithful follower, brave Meriones,
Equal in fight to blood-stain'd Mars ; with these 190
Eurypylus, Euæmon's noble son ;
Thoas, Andræmon's son ; Ulysses last :

These all with Hector offer'd to contend.

Then thus again Gerenian Nestor spoke :

“ Shake then the lots ; on whomsoe'er it fall, 195

Great profit shall he bring to Grecian arms,

Great glory to himself, if he escape

Unwounded from the deadly battle strife.”

He said : each mark'd his sev'ral lot, and all

Together threw in Agamemnon's helm. 200

The crowd, with hands uplifted, pray'd the Gods,

And looking heav'nward, said, “ Grant, Father Jove,

The lot on Ajax, or on Tydeus' son,

Or on Mycenæ's wealthy King may fall.”

Thus they : then aged Nestor shook the helm, 205

And forth, according to their wish, was thrown

The lot of Ajax ; then from left to right

A herald show'd to all the chiefs of Greece,

In turn, the token ; they who knew it not,

Disclaim'd it all ; but when to him he came 210

Who mark'd, and threw it in Atrides' helm,

The noble Ajax, and, approaching, placed

The token in his outstretch'd hand, forthwith

He knew it, and rejoic'd ; before his feet

He threw it down upon the ground, and said, 215

“O friends, the lot is mine ; great is my joy,

And hope o'er godlike Hector to prevail.

But now, while I my warlike armour don,

Pray ye to Saturn's royal son, apart,

In silence, that the Trojans hear ye not ; 220

Or ev'n aloud, for nought have we to fear.

No man against my will can make me fly,

By greater force or skill ; nor will, I hope,

My inexperience in the field disgrace

The teaching of my native Salamis.” 225

Thus he ; and they to Saturn's royal son

Address'd their pray'rs, and looking heav'nward, said :

“O Father Jove, who rul'st on Ida's height !

Most great ! most glorious ! grant that Ajax now

May gain the vict'ry, and immortal praise : 230

Or if thy love and pity Hector claim,

Give equal pow'r and equal praise to both.”

Ajax meanwhile in dazzling brass was clad ;

And when his armour all was duly donn'd,

Forward he mov'd, as when gigantic Mars 235

Leads nations forth to war, whom Saturn's son

In life-destroying conflict hath involv'd ;
So mov'd the giant Ajax, prop of Greece,
With sternly smiling mien ; with haughty stride
He trod the plain, and pois'd his pond'rous spear. 240
The Greeks, rejoicing, on their champion gaz'd,
The Trojans' limbs beneath them shook with fear ;
Ev'n Hector's heart beat quicker in his breast ;
Yet quail he must not now, nor back retreat
Amid his comrades—he, the challenger ! 245
Ajax approach'd ; before him, as a tow'r
His mighty shield he bore, sev'n-fold, brass-bound,
The work of Tychius, best artificer
That wrought in leather ; he in Hyla dwelt.
Of sev'n-fold hides the pond'rous shield was wrought
Of lusty bulls ; the eighth was glitt'ring brass. 251
This by the son of Telamon was borne
Before his breast ; to Hector close he came,
And thus with words of haughty menace spoke :
“ Hector, I now shall teach thee, man to man, 255
The mettle of the chiefs we yet possess,
Although Achilles of the lion heart,
Mighty in battle, be not with us still ;

He by his ocean-going ships indeed
Against Atrides nurses still his wrath ; 260
Yet are there those who dare encounter thee,
And not a few ; then now begin the fight."

To whom great Hector of the glancing helm :
 “ Ajax, brave leader, son of Telamon,
 Deal not with me as with a feeble child, 265
 Or woman, ign’rant of the ways of war ;
 Of war and carnage every point I know ;
 And well I know to wield, now right, now left,
 The tough bull’s-hide that forms my stubborn targe :
 Well know I too my fiery steeds to urge, 270
 And raise the war-cry in the standing fight.
 But not in secret ambush would I watch,
 To strike, by stealth, a noble foe like thee ;
 But slay thee, if I may, in open fight.”

He said ; and, poisoning, hurl'd his pond'rous spear ;
The brazen cov'ring of the shield it struck, 276
The outward fold, the eighth, above the sev'n
Of tough bull's-hide ; through six it drove its way
With stubborn force ; but in the seventh was stay'd.
Then Ajax hurl'd in turn his pond'rous spear, 280

And struck the circle true of Hector's shield ;
Right thro' the glitt'ring shield the stout spear pass'd,
And thro' the well-wrought breastplate drove its way ;
And, underneath, the linen vest it tore ; 284
But Hector, stooping, shunn'd the stroke of death.
Withdrawing then their weapons, each on each
They fell, like lions fierce, or tuskèd boars,
In strength the mightiest of the forest beasts.
Then Hector fairly on the centre struck
The stubborn shield ; yet drove not through the spear ;
For the stout brass the blunted point repell'd. 291
But Ajax, with a forward bound, the shield
Of Hector pierc'd ; right through the weapon pass'd ;
Arrested with rude shock the warrior's course,
And graz'd his neck, that spouted forth the blood. 295
Yet did not Hector of the glancing helm
Flinch from the contest : stooping to the ground,
With his broad hand a pond'rous stone he seiz'd,
That lay upon the plain, dark, jagg'd, and huge,
And hurl'd against the sev'n-fold shield, and struck
Full on the central boss ; loud rang the brass : 301
Then Ajax rais'd a weightier mass of rock

And sent it whirling, giving to his arm
Unmeasur'd impulse ; with a millstone's weight
It crush'd the buckler ; Hector's knees gave way ; 305
Backward he stagger'd, yet upon his shield
Sustain'd, till Phœbus rais'd him to his feet.
Now had they hand to hand with swords engag'd,
Had not the messengers of Gods and men,
The heralds, interpos'd ; the one for Troy, 310
The other umpire for the brass-clad Greeks,
Talthybius and Idæus, well approv'd.
Between the chiefs they held their wands, and thus
Idæus both with prudent speech address'd :
“ No more, brave youths ! no longer wage the fight :
To cloud-compelling Jove ye both are dear, 316
Both valiant spearmen ; that, we all have seen.
Night is at hand ; behoves us yield to night.”

Whom answer'd thus the son of Telamon :
“ Idæus, bid that Hector speak those words : 320
He challeng'd all our chiefs ; let him begin :
If he be willing, I shall not refuse.”

To whom great Hector of the glancing helm :
“ Ajax, since God hath giv'n thee size, and strength,

And skill ; and with the spear, of all the Greeks 325
None is thine equal ; cease we for to-day
The fight ; hereafter we may meet, and Heav'n
Decide our cause, and one with vict'ry crown.
Night is at hand ; behoves us yield to night.
So by the ships shalt thou rejoice the Greeks, 330
And most of all, thy comrades and thy friends ;
And so shall I, in Priam's royal town,
Rejoice the men of Troy, and long-rob'd dames,
Who shall with grateful pray'rs the temples throng.
But make we now an interchange of gifts, 335
That both the Trojans and the Greeks may say,
' On mortal quarrel did those warriors meet,
Yet parted thence in friendly bonds conjoin'd.' ”

 This said, a silver-studded sword he gave,
With scabbard and with well-cut belt complete ; 340
Ajax a girdle, rich with crimson dye.
They parted ; Ajax to the Greeian camp,
And Hector to the ranks of Troy return'd :
Great was the joy when him they saw approach,
Alive and safe ; escap'd from Ajax' might 345
And arm invincible ; and tow'rd the town

They led him back, beyond their hope preserv'd ;
While to Atrides' tent the well-greav'd Greeks
Led Ajax, glorying in his triumph gain'd.

But when to Agamemnon's tents they came, 350
The King of men to Saturn's royal son
A bullock slew, a male of five years old ;
The carcase then they flay'd ; and cutting up,
Sever'd the joints ; then fixing on the spits,
Roasted with care, and from the fire withdrew. 355
Their labours ended, and the feast prepar'd,
They shar'd the social meal, nor lack'd there aught.

To Ajax then the chine's continuous length,
As honour's meed, the mighty monarch gave.
The rage of thirst and hunger satisfied, 360
The aged Nestor first his mind disclos'd ;
He who, before, the sagest counsel gave,
Now thus with prudent speech began, and said :
“ Atrides, and ye other chiefs of Greece,
Since many a long-hair'd Greek hath fall'n in fight, 365
Whose blood, beside Scamander's flowing stream,
Fierce Mars has shed, while to the viewless shades
Their spirits are gone, behoves thee with the morn

The warfare of the Greeks to intermit :

Then we, with oxen and with mules, the dead 370

From all the plain will draw ; and, from the ships

A little space remov'd, will burn with fire :

That we, returning to our native land,

May to their children bear our comrades' bones.

Then will we go, and on the plain erect 375

Around the pyre one common mound for all ;

Then quickly build before it lofty tow'rs

To screen both ships and men ; and in the tow'rs

Make ample portals, with well-fitting gates,

That through the midst a carriage-way may pass : 380

And a deep trench around it dig, to guard

Both men and chariots, lest on our defence

The haughty Trojans should too hardly press."

He said ; and all the Kings his words approv'd.

Meanwhile, on Ilium's height, at Priam's gate, 385

The Trojan chiefs a troubled council held ;

Which op'ning, thus the sage Antenor spoke :

" Hear now, ye Trojans, Dardans, and Allies,

The words I speak, the promptings of my soul.

Back to the sons of Atreus let us give

390

The Argive Helen, and the goods she brought ;
For now in breach of plighted faith we fight ;
Nor can I hope, unless to my advice
Ye listen, that success will crown our arms.”
Thus having said, he sat ; and next arose 395
The godlike Paris, fair-hair'd Helen's Lord ;
Who thus with wingèd words the chiefs address'd :
“ Hostile to me, Antenor, is thy speech ;
Thy better judgment better counsel knows ;
But if in earnest such is thine advice, 400
Thee of thy senses have the Gods bereft.
Now, Trojans, hear my answer ; I reject
The counsel, nor the woman will restore ;
But for the goods, whate'er I hither brought
To Troy from Argos, I am well content 405
To give them all, and others add beside.”

This said, he sat ; and aged Priam next,
A God in council, Dardan's son, arose,
Who thus with prudent speech began, and said :

“ Hear now, ye Trojans, Dardans, and Allies, 410
The words I speak, the promptings of my soul :
Now through the city take your wonted meal ;

Look to your watch, let each man keep his guard :
To-morrow shall Idæus to the ships
Of Greece, to both the sons of Atreus, bear 415
The words of Paris, cause of all this war ;
And ask besides, if from the deadly strife
Such truce they will accord us as may serve
To burn the dead ; hereafter we may fight
Till Heav'n decide, and one with vict'ry crown." 420

He said ; and they, obedient to his word,
Throughout the ranks prepar'd the wonted meal :
But with the morning to the ships of Greece
Idæus took his way : in council there
By Agamemnon's leading ship he found 425
The Grecian chiefs, the ministers of Mars :
And 'mid them all the clear-voic'd herald spoke :

" Ye sons of Atreus, and ye chiefs of Greece,
From Priam, and the gallant sons of Troy,
I come, to bear, if ye be pleas'd to hear, 430
The words of Paris, cause of all this war :
The goods which hither in his hollow ships
(Would he had perish'd rather !) Paris brought,
He will restore, and others add beside ;

But further says, the virgin-wedded wife 435
 Of Menelæus, though the gen'ral voice
 Of Troy should bid him, he will not restore :
 Then bids me ask, if from the deadly strife
 Such truce ye will accord us as may serve
 To burn the dead : hereafter we may fight 440
 Till Heav'n decide, and one with vict'ry crown."

Thus he : they all in silence heard ; at length
 Uprose the valiant Diomed, and said ;
 "Let none from Paris now propose to accept
 Or goods, or Helen's self ; a child may see 445
 That now the doom of Troy is close at hand."
 He said ; the sons of Greece, with loud applause,
 The speech of valiant Diomed confirm'd.

Then to Idæus Agamemnon thus :
 "Idæus, thou hast heard what answer give 450
 The chiefs of Greece—their answer I approve.
 But for the truce, for burial of the dead,
 I nought demur ; no shame it is to grace
 With fun'ral rites the corpse of slaughter'd foes.
 Be witness, Jove ! and guard the plighted truce." 455
 He said : and heav'nward rais'd his staff ; and back

To Ilium's walls Idæus took his way.

Trojans and Dardans there in council met

Expecting sat, till from the Grecian camp

Idæus should return ; he came, and stood 460

In mid assembly, and his message gave :

Then all in haste their sev'ral ways dispers'd,

For fuel some, and some to bring the dead.

The Greeks too from their well-mann'd ships went forth,

For fuel some, and some to bring the dead. 465

The sun was newly glancing on the earth.

From out the ocean's smoothly-flowing depths

Climbing the Heav'ns, when on the plain they met.

Hard was it then to recognize the dead ;

But when the gory dust was wash'd away, 470

Shedding hot tears, they plac'd them on the wains.

Nor loud lament, by Priam's high command,

Was heard ; in silence they, with grief suppress'd,

Heap'd up their dead upon the fun'ral pyre ;

Then burnt with fire, and back return'd to Troy. 475

The well-greav'd Greeks, they too, with grief suppress'd,

Heap'd up their dead upon the fun'ral pyre ;

Then burnt with fire, and to the ships return'd.

But ere 'twas morn, while daylight strove with night,
About the pyre a chosen band of Greeks 480
Had kept their vigil, and around it rais'd
Upon the plain one common mound for all ;
And built in front a wall, with lofty tow'rs
To screen both ships and men ; and in the tow'rs
Made ample portals with well-fitting gates, 485
That through the midst a carriage-way might pass :
Then dug a trench around it, deep and wide,
And in the trench a palisade they fix'd.

Thus labour'd thro' the night the long-hair'd Greeks :
The Gods, assembled in the courts of Jove, 490
With wonder view'd the mighty work ; and thus
Neptune, Earth-shaking King, his speech began :
“ O Father Jove, in all the wide-spread earth
Shall men be found, in counsel and design
To rival us Immortals ? see'st thou not 495
How round their ships the long-hair'd Greeks have built
A lofty wall, and dug a trench around,
Nor to the Gods have paid their off'rings due !
Wide as the light extends shall be the fame
Of this great work, and men shall lightly deem 500

Of that which I and Phœbus jointly rais'd,
With toil and pain, for great Læomedon."

To whom in wrath the Cloud-compeller thus :

"Neptune, Earth-shaking King, what words are these ?

This bold design to others of the Gods, 505

Of feebler hands, and pow'r less great than thine,

Might cause alarm ; but, far as light extends,

Of this great work to thee shall be the fame :

When with their ships the long-hair'd Greeks shall take

Their homeward voyage to their native land, 510

This wall shall by the waves be broken through,

And sink, a shapeless ruin, in the sea :

O'er the wide shore again thy sands shall spread,

And all the boasted work of Greece o'erwhelm."

Amid themselves such converse held the Gods. 515

The sun was set ; the Grecian work was done ;

They slew, and shar'd, by tents, the ev'ning meal.

From Lemnos' isle a num'rous fleet had come

Freighted with wine ; and by Eunëus sent,

Whom fair Hypsipyle to Jason bore. 520

For Atreus' sons, apart from all the rest,

Of wine, the son of Jason had despatch'd

A thousand measures ; all the other Greeks
Hasten'd to purchase, some with brass, and some
With gleaming iron ; other some with hides, 525
Cattle, or slaves ; and joyous wax'd the feast.
All night the long-hair'd Greeks their revels held,
And so in Troy, the Trojans and Allies :
But through the night his anger Jove express'd
With awful thunderings ; pale they turn'd with fear :
To earth the wine was from the goblets shed, 531
Nor dar'd they drink, until libations due
Had first been pour'd to Saturn's mighty son.

Then lay they down, and sought the boon of sleep.

ARGUMENT.

THE SECOND BATTLE, AND THE DISTRESS OF THE GREEKS.

Jupiter assembles a council of the deities, and threatens them with the pains of Tartarus, if they assist either side : Minerva only obtains of him that she may direct the Greeks by her counsels. The armies join battle ; Jupiter on Mount Ida weighs in his balances the fates of both, and affrights the Greeks with his thunders and lightnings. Nestor alone continues in the field in great danger ; Diomed relieves him ; whose exploits, and those of Hector, are excellently described. Juno endeavours to animate Neptune to the assistance of the Greeks, but in vain. The acts of Teucer, who is at length wounded by Hector, and carried off. Juno and Minerva prepare to aid the Grecians, but are restrained by Iris, sent from Jupiter. The night puts an end to the battle. Hector continues in the field, (the Greeks being driven to their fortifications before the ships,) and gives orders to keep the watch all night in the camp, to prevent the enemy from re-embarking and escaping by flight. They kindle fires through all the field, and pass the night under arms.

The time of seven-and-twenty days is employed from the opening of the poem to the end of this book. The scene here (except of the celestial machines) lies in the field toward the sea-shore.

BOOK VIII.

NOW morn, in saffron robe, the earth o'erspread ;
And Jove, the lightning's Lord, of all the Gods
A council held upon the highest peak
Of many-ridg'd Olympus ; he himself
Address'd them ; they his speech attentive heard. 5
“Hear, all ye Gods, and all ye Goddesses,
The words I speak, the promptings of my soul.
Let none among you, male or female, dare
To thwart my counsels : rather all concur,
That so these matters I may soon conclude. 10
If, from the rest apart, one God I find
Presuming or to Trojans or to Greeks
To give his aid, with ignominious stripes
Back to Olympus shall that God be driv'n ;
Or to the gloom of Tartarus profound, 15
Far off, the lowest abyss beneath the earth,

With gates of iron, and with floor of brass,
Beneath the shades as far as earth from Heav'n,
There will I hurl him, and ye all shall know
In strength how greatly I surpass you all. 20
Make trial if ye will, that all may know.
A golden cord let down from Heav'n, and all,
Both Gods and Goddesses, your strength apply :
Yet would ye fail to drag from Heav'n to earth,
Strive as ye may, your mighty master, Jove ; 25
But if I choose to make my pow'r be known,
'The earth itself, and ocean, I could raise,
And binding round Olympus' ridge the cord,
Leave them suspended so in middle air :
So far supreme my pow'r o'er Gods and men." 30

He said, and they, confounded by his words,
In silence sat ; so sternly did he speak.
At length the blue-ey'd Goddess, Pallas, said :
" O Father, Son of Saturn, King of Kings,
Well do we know thy pow'r invincible ; 35
Yet deeply grieve we for the warlike Greeks,
Condemn'd to hopeless ruin ; from the fight,
Since such is thy command, we stand aloof ;

But yet some saving counsel may we give,
Lest in thine anger thou destroy them quite." 40

To whom the Cloud-compeller, smiling, thus :
" Be of good cheer, my child ; unwillingly
I speak, yet will not thwart thee of thy wish."

He said, and straight the brazen-footed steeds,
Of swiftest flight, with manes of flowing gold, 45
He harness'd to his chariot ; all in gold
Himself array'd, the golden lash he grasp'd,
Of curious work ; and mounting on his car,
Urg'd the fleet coursers ; nothing loth, they flew
Midway betwixt the earth and starry heav'n. 50

To Ida's spring-abounding hill he came,
And to the crest of Gargarus, wild nurse
Of mountain beasts ; a sacred plot was there,
Whereon his incense-honour'd altar stood :
There stay'd his steeds the Sire of Gods and men, 55
Loos'd from the car, and veil'd with clouds around.

Then on the topmost ridge he sat, in pride
Of conscious strength ; and looking down, survey'd
The Trojan city, and the ships of Greece. 59

Meantime, the Greeks throughout their tents in haste

Despatch'd their meal, and arm'd them for the fight ;
On th' other side the Trojans donn'd their arms,
In numbers fewer, but with stern resolve,
By hard necessity constrain'd, to strive,
For wives and children, in the stubborn fight. 65
The gates all open'd wide, forth pour'd the crowd
Of horse and foot ; and loud the clamour rose.
When in the midst they met, together rush'd
Bucklers and lances, and the furious might
Of mail-clad warriors ; bossy shield on shield 70
Clatter'd in conflict ; loud the clamour rose :
Then rose too mingled shouts and groans of men
Slaying and slain ; the earth ran red with blood.
While yet 'twas morn, and wax'd the youthful day,
Thick flew the shafts, and fast the people fell 75
On either side ; but when the sun had reach'd
The middle Heav'n, th' Eternal Father hung
His golden scales aloft, and plac'd in each
The fatal death-lot : for the sons of Troy
The one, the other for the brass-clad Greeks ; 80
Then held them by the midst ; down sank the lot
Of Greece, down to the ground, while high aloft

Mounted the Trojan scale, and rose to Heav'n.*
Then loud he bade the volleying thunder peal
From Ida's heights ; and 'mid the Grecian ranks 85
He hurl'd his flashing lightning ; at the sight
Amaz'd they stood, and pale with terror shook.

Then not Idomeneus, nor Atreus' son,
The mighty Agamemnon, kept their ground,
Nor either Ajax, ministers of Mars ; 90
Gerenian Nestor, aged prop of Greece,
Alone remain'd, and he against his will,
His horse sore wounded by an arrow shot
By godlike Paris, fair-hair'd Helen's Lord :
Just on the crown, where close behind the head 95
First springs the mane, the deadliest spot of all,
The arrow struck him ; madden'd with the pain
He rear'd, then plunging forward, with the shaft
Fix'd in his brain, and rolling in the dust,
The other steeds in dire confusion threw ; 100

* See also Book xxii. l. 252.

Milton, in the corresponding passage at the close of the 4th Book of 'Paradise Lost,' reverses the sign, and represents the scale of the vanquished as "flying up" and "kicking the beam."

"The Fiend look'd up, and knew
His mounted scale aloft ; nor more, but fled
Murm'ring, and with him fled the shades of night."

And while old Nestor with his sword essay'd
To cut the reins, and free the struggling horse,
Amid the rout down came the flying steeds
Of Hector, guided by no timid hand,
By Hector's self; then had the old man paid 105
The forfeit of his life, but, good at need,
The valiant Diomed his peril saw,
And loudly shouting, on Ulysses call'd :
“ Ulysses sage, Laertes' godlike son,
Why fliest thou, coward-like, amid the throng, 110
And in thy flight to the aim of hostile spears
Thy back presenting? stay, and here with me
From this fierce warrior guard the good old man.”

He said; but stout Ulysses heard him not,
And to the ships pursued his hurried way. 115
But in the front, Tydides, though alone,
Remain'd undaunted; by old Nestor's car
He stood, and thus the aged chief address'd :
“ Old man, these youthful warriors press thee sore,
Thy vigour spent, and with the weight of years 120
Oppress'd; and helpless too thy charioteer,

A charioteer ; nor wanted long his steeds
A guiding hand ; for Archeptolemus, 145
Brave son of Iphitus, he quickly found,
And bade him mount his swiftly-flying car,
And to his hands the glitt'ring reins transferr'd.

Then fearful ruin had been wrought, and deeds
Untold achiev'd, and like a flock of lambs, 150
The adverse hosts been coop'd beneath the walls,
Had not the Sire of Gods and men beheld,
And with an awful peal of thunder hurl'd
His vivid lightning down ; the fiery bolt
Before Tydides' chariot plough'd the ground. 155
Fierce flash'd the sulph'rous flame, and whirling round
Beneath the yoke th' affrighted horses quailed.

From Nestor's hand escap'd the glitt'ring reins,
And, trembling, thus to Diomed he spoke :

“ Turn we to flight, Tydides ; see'st thou not, 160
That Jove from us his aiding hand withholds ?
This day to Hector Saturn's son decrees
The meed of vict'ry ; on some future day,
If so he will, the triumph may be ours ;
For man, how brave soe'er, cannot o'errule 165

The will of Jove, so much the mightier he."

Whom answer'd thus the valiant Diomed :

"Truly, old man, and wisely dost thou speak ;

But this the bitter grief that wrings my soul :

Some day, amid the counsellors of Troy 170

Hector may say, 'Before my presence scar'd

Tydidēs sought the shelter of the ships.'

Thus when he boasts, gape earth, and hide my shame!"

To whom Gerenian Nestor thus replied :

"Great son of Tydeus, oh what words are these ! 175

Should Hector brand thee with a coward's name,

No credence would he gain from Trojan men,

Or Dardan, or from Trojan warriors' wives,

Whose husbands in the dust thy hand hath laid."

He said, and 'mid the general rout, to flight 180

He turn'd his horses ; on the flying crowd,

With shouts of triumph, Hector at their head,

The men of Troy their murd'rous weapons show'r'd.

Loud shouted Hector of the glancing helm :

"Tydidēs, heretofore the warrior Greeks 185

Have held thee in much honour ; plac'd on high

At banquets, and with lib'ral portions grac'd,

And flowing cups : but thou, from this day forth,
Shalt be their scorn ! a woman's soul is thine !
Out on thee, frighten'd girl ! thou ne'er shalt scale 190
Our Trojan tow'rs, and see me basely fly ;
Nor in thy ships our women bear away :
Ere such thy boast, my hand shall work thy doom."

Thus he ; and greatly was Tydides mov'd
To turn his horses, and confront his foe : 195
Thrice thus he doubted ; thrice, at Jove's command,
From Ida's height the thunder peal'd, in sign
Of vict'ry swaying to the Trojan side.
Then to the Trojans Hector call'd aloud :
" Trojans, and Lycians, and ye Dardans, fam'd 200
In close encounter, quit ye now like men ;
Put forth your wonted valour ; for I know
That in his secret counsels Jove designs
Glory to me, disaster to the Greeks.
Fools, in those wretched walls that put their trust,
Scarce worthy notice, hopeless to withstand 206
My onset ; and the trench that they have dug,
Our horses easily can overleap ;
And when I reach the ships, be mindful ye,

To have at hand the fire, wherewith the ships 210
We may destroy, while they themselves shall fall
An easy prey, bewilder'd by the smoke."

He said, and thus with cheering words address'd
His horses : " Xanthus, and, Podargus, thou,
Æthon and Lampus, now repay the care 215
On you bestow'd by fair Andromache,
Eëtion's royal daughter ; bear in mind
How she with ample store of provender
Your mangers still supplied, before e'en I,
Her husband, from her hands the wine-cup took. 220
Put forth your speed, that we may make our prize
Of Nestor's shield, whose praise extends to Heav'n,
Its handles, and itself, of solid gold ;
And from the shoulders of Tydides strip
His gorgeous breastplate, work of Vulcan's hand :
These could we take, methinks this very night 226
Would see the Greeks embarking on their ships."

Such was his pray'r ; but Juno on her throne
Trembled with rage, till great Olympus quak'd,
And thus to Neptune, mighty God, she spoke : 230
" O thou of boundless might, Earth-shaking God,

See'st thou unmov'd the ruin of the Greeks ?
Yet they in *Ægæ* and in *Helice*,
With grateful off'rings rich thine altars crown ;
Then give we them the vict'ry ; if we all 235
Who favour Greece, together should combine
To put to flight the Trojans, and restrain
All-seeing Jove, he might be left alone,
On *Ida's* summit to digest his wrath."

To whom, in anger, Neptune thus replied : 240
" O *Juno*, rash of speech, what words are these !
I dare not counsel that we all should join
'Gainst *Saturn's* son ; so much the stronger he."

Such converse held they ; all the space meanwhile
Within the trench, between the tow'r and ships, 245
Was closely throng'd with steeds and buckler'd men ;
By noble *Hector*, brave as *Mars*, and led
By *Jove* to vict'ry, coop'd in narrow space ;
Who now had burnt with fire the Grecian ships,
But *Juno* bade *Atrides* haste to rouse 250
Their fainting courage ; through the camp he pass'd ;
On his broad hand a purple robe he bore,
And stood upon *Ulysses'* lofty ship,

The midmost, whence to shout to either side,
Or to the tents of Ajax Telamon, 255
Or of Achilles, who at each extreme,
Confiding in their strength, had moor'd their ships.

Thence to the Greeks he shouted, loud and clear :
 “ Shame on ye, Greeks, base cowards, brave alone
 In outward semblance ! where are now the vaunts 260
 Which once (so highly of ourselves we deem’d)
 Ye made, vain-glorious braggarts as ye were,
 In Lemnos’ isle, when, feasting on the flesh
 Of straight-horn’d oxen, and your flowing cups
 Crowning with ruddy wine, not one of you, 265
 But for a hundred Trojans in the field,
 Or for two hundred, deem’d himself a match :
 Now quail ye all before a single man,
 Hector, who soon will wrap our ships in fire.
 O Father Jove ! what sov’reign e’er hast thou 270
 So far deluded, of such glory robb’d ?
 Yet ne’er, on this disastrous voyage bent,
 Have I unheeded pass’d thine altar by ;
 The choicest off’rings burning still on each,
 In hopes to raze the well-built walls of Troy. 275

Yet to this pray'r at least thine ear incline ;
Grant that this coast in safety we may leave,
Nor be by Trojans utterly subdued."

He said; and Jove, with pity, saw his tears ;
And, with a sign, his people's safety vouch'd. 280

He sent an eagle, noblest bird that flies,
Who in his talons bore a wild deer's fawn :
The fawn he dropp'd beside the holy shrine,
Where to the Lord of divination, Jove,
The Greeks were wont their solemn rites to pay. 285
The sign from Heav'n they knew ; with courage fresh
Assail'd the Trojans, and the fight renew'd.

Then none of all the many Greeks might boast
That he, before Tydides, drove his car
Across the ditch, and mingled in the fight. 290

His was the hand that first a crested chief,
The son of Phradmon, Ageläus, struck.
He turn'd his car for flight ; but as he turn'd,
The lance of Diomed, behind his neck,
Between the shoulders, through his chest was driv'n ;
Headlong he fell, and loud his armour rang. 296

Next to Tydides, Agamemnon came,

And Menelæus, Atreus' godlike sons ;
Th' Ajaces both, in dauntless courage cloth'd ;
Idomeneus, with whom Meriones, 300
His faithful comrade, terrible as Mars ;
Eurypylus, Euæmon's noble son ;
The ninth was Teucer, who, with bended bow,
Behind the shield of Ajax Telamon
Took shelter ; Ajax o'er him held his shield ; 305
Thence look'd he round, and aim'd amid the crowd ;
And as he saw each Trojan, wounded, fall,
Struck by his shafts, to Ajax close he press'd,
As to its mother's shelt'ring arms a child,
Conceal'd and safe beneath the ample targe. 310

Say then, who first of all the Trojans fell
By Teucer's arrows slain? Orsilochns,
And Ophleustes, Dætor, Ormenus,
And godlike Lycophontes, Chromius,
And Amopaon, Polyæmon's son, 315
And valiant Melanippus: all of these,
Each after other, Teucer laid in dust.
Him Agamemnon, with his well-strung bow
Thinning the Trojan ranks, with joy beheld,

And, standing at his side, address'd him thus : 320
"Teucer, good comrade, son of Telamon,
Shoot ever thus, if thou wouldst be the light
And glory of the Greeks, and of thy sire,
Who nursed thine infancy, and in his house
Maintain'd, though bastard ; him, though distant far,
To highest fame let thine achievements raise. 326
This too I say, and will make good my word :
If by the grace of ægis-bearing Jove,
And Pallas, Ilium's well-built walls we raze,
A gift of honour, second but to mine, 330
I in thy hands will place ; a tripod bright,
Or, with their car and harness, two brave steeds,
Or a fair woman who thy bed may share."

To whom in answer valiant Teucer thus :
"Most mighty son of Atreus, why excite 335
Who lacks not zeal ? To th' utmost of my pow'r
Since first we drove the Trojans back, I watch,
Unceasing, every chance to ply my shafts.
Eight barbèd arrows have I shot e'en now,
And in a warrior each has found its mark ; 340
That savage hound alone defeats my aim."

At Hector, as he spoke, another shaft
He shot, ambitious of so great a prize :
He miss'd his aim ; but Priam's noble son
Gorgythion, through the breast his arrow struck, 345
Whom from Æsyme brought, a wedded bride
Of heavenly beauty, Castianeira bore.
Down sank his head, as in a garden sinks
A ripen'd poppy charg'd with vernal rains ;
So sank his head beneath his helmet's weight. 350
At Hector yet another arrow shot
Teucer, ambitious of so great a prize ;
Yet this too miss'd, by Phœbus turn'd aside ;
But Archeptolemus, the charioteer
Of Hector, onward hurrying, through the breast 355
It struck, beside the nipple ; from the car
He fell ; aside the startled horses swerv'd ;
And as he fell the vital spirit fled.
Deep, for his comrade slain, was Hector's grief ;
Yet him, though griev'd at heart, perforce he left,
And to Cebriones, his brother, call'd, 361
Then near at hand, the horses' reins to take ;
He heard, and straight obey'd ; then Hector leap'd

Down from his glitt'ring chariot to the ground,
His fearful war-cry shouting ; in his hand 365
A pond'rous stone he carried ; and, intent
To strike him down, at Teucer straight he rush'd.
He from his quiver chose a shaft in haste,
And fitted to the cord ; but as he drew
The sinew, Hector of the glancing helm 370
Hurl'd the huge mass of rock, which Teucer struck
Near to the shoulder, where the collar-bone
Joins neck and breast, the spot most opportune,
And broke the tendon ; paralyz'd, his arm
Dropp'd helpless by his side ; upon his knees 375
He fell, and from his hands let fall the bow.
Not careless Ajax saw his brother's fall,
But o'er him spread in haste his cov'ring shield.
Two faithful friends, Mecisteus, Echius' son,
And brave Alastor, from the press withdrew, 380
And bore him, deeply groaning, to the ships.

Then Jove again the Trojan courage fir'd,
And backward to the ditch they forc'd the Greeks.
Proud of his prowess, Hector led them on ;
And as a hound that, fleet of foot, o'ertakes 385

Or boar or lion, object of his chase,
Springs from behind, and fastens on his flank,
Yet careful watches, lest he turn to bay :
So Hector press'd upon the long-hair'd Greeks,
Slaying the hindmost ; they in terror fled. 390
But, pass'd at length the ditch and palisade,
With loss of many by the Trojans slain,
Before the ships they rallied from their flight,
And one to other call'd : and one and all
With hands uplifted, pray'd to all the Gods ; 395
While Hector, here and there, on ev'ry side
His flying coursers wheel'd, with eyes that flash'd
Awful as Gorgon's, or as blood-stain'd Mars.

Juno, the white-arm'd Queen, with pity mov'd,
To Pallas thus her wingèd words address'd : 400
“ O Heav'n, brave child of ægis-bearing Jove,
Can we, ev'n now, in this their sorest need,
Refuse the Greeks our aid, by one subdued,
One single man, of pride unbearable,
Hector, the son of Priam, who e'en now, 405
Hath caus'd them endless grief ? ” To whom again
The blue-ey'd Goddess, Pallas, thus replied :

“I too would fain behold him robb’d of life,
In his own country slain by Grecian hands ;
But that my sire, by ill advice misled, 410
Rages in wrath, still thwarting all my plans ;
Forgetting now how oft his son I sav’d,
Sore wearied with the toils Eurystheus gave.
Oft would his tears ascend to Heav’n, and oft
From Heav’n would Jove despatch me to his aid ;
But if I then had known what now I know, 416
When to the narrow gates of Pluto’s realm
He sent him forth to bring from Erebus
Its guardian dog, he never had return’d
In safety from the marge of Styx profound. 420
He holds me now in hatred, and his ear
To Thetis lends, who kiss’d his knees, and touch’d
His beard, and pray’d him to avenge her son
Achilles ; yet the time shall come when I
Shall be once more his own dear blue-ey’d Maid. 425
But haste thee now, prepare for us thy car,
While to the house of ægis-bearing Jove
I go, and don my armour for the fight,†
To prove if Hector of the glancing helm,

The son of Priam, will unmov'd behold 430
Us two advancing o'er the pass of war ;
Or if the flesh of Trojans, slain by Greeks,
Shall sate the maw of rav'ning dogs and birds."

She said: the white-arm'd Queen her word obey'd.
Juno, great Goddess, royal Saturn's child, 435
The horses brought, with golden frontlets crown'd ;
While Pallas, child of ægis-bearing Jove,
Within her father's threshold dropp'd her veil
Of airy texture, work of her own hands ;
The cuirass donn'd of cloud-compelling Jove, 440
And stood accoutred for the bloody fray.
The fiery car she mounted ; in her hand
A spear she bore, long, weighty, tough ; wherewith
The mighty daughter of a mighty sire
Sweeps down the ranks of those her wrath pursues.
Then Juno sharply touch'd the flying steeds ; 446
Forthwith spontaneous opening, grated harsh
The heavenly portals, guarded by the Hours,
Who Heav'n and high Olympus have in charge,
To roll aside or close the veil of cloud ; 450
Through these th' excited horses held their way.

From Ida's heights the son of Saturn saw,
And, fill'd with wrath, the heav'nly messenger,
The golden-wingèd Iris, thus bespoke :
" Haste thee, swift Iris; turn them back, and warn
That farther they advance not : 'tis not meet 456
That they and I in war should be oppos'd.
This too I say, and will make good my words :
Their flying horses I will lame ; themselves
Dash from their car, and break their chariot-wheels ;
And ten revolving years heal not the wound 461
Where strikes my lightning ; so shall Pallas learn
What 'tis against her father to contend.
Juno less moves my wonder and my wrath ;
Whate'er I plan, 'tis still her wont to thwart." 465
Thus he : from Ida to Olympus' height
The storm-swift Iris on her errand sped.
At many-ridg'd Olympus' outer gate
She met the Goddesses, and stay'd their course,
And thus convey'd the sov'reign will of Jove : 470
" Whither away ? what madness fills your breasts ?
To give the Greeks your succour, Jove forbids ;
And thus he threatens, and will make it good :

Your flying horses he will lame ; yourselves
Dash from the car, and break your eharlot-wheels ;
And ten revolving years heal not the wounds 476
His lightning makes : so, Pallas, shalt thou learn
What 'tis against thy father to contend.

Juno less moves his wonder and his wrath ;
Whate'er he plans, 'tis still her wont to thwart ; 480
But over-bold and void of shame art thou,
If against Jove thou dare to lift thy spear."

Thus as she spoke, swift Iris disappear'd.
Then Juno thus to Pallas spoke : " No more,
Daughter of ægis-bearing Jove, can we 485
For mortal men his sov'reign will resist ;
Live they or die, as each man's fate may be ;
While he, 'twixt Greeks and Trojans, as 'tis meet,
His own designs accomplishing, decides."

She said, and backward turn'd her horses' heads. 490
The horses from the car the Hours unyok'd,
And safely tether'd in the heav'nly stalls ;
The car they rear'd against the inner wall,
That brightly polish'd shone ; the Goddesses
Themselves meanwhile, amid th' Immortals all, 495

With sorrowing hearts on golden seats reclin'd.

Ere long, on swiftly-rolling chariot borne,
Jove to Olympus, to th' abode of Gods,
From Ida's height return'd : th' earth-shaking God,
Neptune, unyok'd his steeds ; and on the stand 500
Secur'd the car, and spread the cov'ring o'er.
Then on his golden throne all-seeing Jove
Sat down ; beneath his feet Olympus shook.
Juno and Pallas only sat aloof ;
No word they utter'd, no enquiry made. 505
Jove knew their thoughts, and thus address'd them both :
“ Pallas and Juno, wherefore sit ye thus
In angry silence ? In the glorious fight
No lengthen'd toil have ye sustain'd, to slay
The Trojans, whom your deadly hate pursues. 510
Not all the Gods that on Olympus dwell
Could turn me from my purpose, such my might,
And such the pow'r of my resistless hand ;
But ye were struck with terror ere ye saw
The battle-field, and fearful deeds of war. 515
But this I say, and bear it in your minds,
Had I my lightning launch'd, and from your car

Had hurl'd ye down, ye ne'er had reach'd again
Olympus' height, th' immortal Gods' abode."

So spoke the God ; but, seated side by side, 520
Juno and Pallas glances interchang'd
Of ill portent for Troy ; Pallas indeed
Sat silent, and, though inly wroth with Jove,
Yet answer'd not a word ; but Juno's breast
Could not contain her rage, and thus she spoke : 525
"What words, dread son of Saturn, dost thou speak ?
Well do we know thy pow'r invincible,
Yet deeply grieve we for the warlike Greeks,
Condemn'd to hopeless ruin : from the fight,
Since such is thy command, we stand aloof ; 530
But yet some saving counsel may we give,
Lest in thine anger thou destroy them quite."

To whom the Cloud-compeller thus replied :
" Yet greater slaughter, stag-ey'd Queen of Heav'n,
To-morrow shalt thou see, if so thou list, 535
Wrought on the warrior Greeks by Saturn's son ;
For Hector's proud career shall not be check'd
Until the wrath of Peleus' godlike son
Beside the ships be kindled, in the day

When round Patroclus' corpse, in narrow space, 540
E'en by the vessels' sterns, the war shall rage.

Such is the voice of destiny : for thee,
I reckon not of thy wrath ; nor should I care
Though thou wert thrust beneath the lowest deep
Of earth and ocean, where Iapetus 545

And Saturn lie, uncheer'd by ray of sun
Or breath of air, in Tartarus profound.

Though there thou wert to banishment consign'd,
I should not heed, but thy reproaches hear
Unmov'd ; for viler thing is none than thou." 550
He said, but white-arm'd Juno answer'd not.

The sun, now sunk beneath the ocean wave,
Drew o'er the teeming earth the veil of night.
The Trojans saw, reluctant, day's decline ;
But on the Greeks thrice welcome, thrice invoked
With earnest prayers, the shades of darkness fell. 556

The noble Hector then to council call'd
The Trojan leaders ; from the ships apart
He led them, by the eddying river's side,
To a clear space of ground, from corpses free. 560
They from their cars dismounting, to the words

Of godlike Hector listen'd : in his hand
His massive spear he held, twelve cubits long,
Whose glitt'ring point flash'd bright, with hoop of gold
Encircled round ; on this he leant, and said, 565
“ Hear me, ye Trojans, Dardans, and Allies ;
I hop'd that to the breezy heights of Troy
We might ere now in triumph have return'd,
The Grecian ships and all the Greeks destroy'd :
But night hath come too soon, and sav'd awhile 570
The Grecian army and their stranded ships.
Then yield we to the night ; prepare the meal ;
Unyoke your horses, and before them place
Their needful forage ; from the city bring
Oxen and sheep ; the luscious wine provide ; 575
Bring bread from out our houses ; and collect
Good store of fuel, that the livelong night,
E'en till the dawn of day, may broadly blaze
Our num'rous watchfires, and illumine the Heav'ns ;
Lest, e'en by night, the long-hair'd Greeks should seek
O'er the broad bosom of the sea to fly, 581
That so not unassail'd they may embark,
Nor undisturb'd ; but haply some may bear,

E'en to their homes, the mem'ry of a wound
Receiv'd from spear or arrow, as on board 585
They leap'd in haste ; and others too may fear
To tempt with hostile arms the pow'r of Troy.
Then let the sacred heralds' voice proclaim
Throughout the city, that the stripling youths
And hoary-headed sires allot themselves 590
In sev'ral watches to the Heav'n-built tow'rs.
Charge too the women, in their houses each,
To kindle blazing fires ; let careful watch
Be set, lest, in the absence of the men,
The town by secret ambush be surpris'd. 595
Such, valiant Trojans, is th' advice I give ;
And what to-night your wisdom shall approve
Will I, at morn, before the Trojans speak.
Hopeful, to Jove I pray, and all the Gods,
To chase from hence these fate-inflicted hounds, 600
By fate sent hither on their dark-ribb'd ships.
Now keep we through the night our watchful guard ;
And with the early dawn, equipp'd in arms,
Upon their fleet our angry battle pour.
Then shall I know if Tydeus' valiant son 605

Back from the ships shall drive me to the walls,
Or I, triumphant, bear his bloody spoils :
To-morrow morn his courage will decide,
If he indeed my onset will await.

But ere to-morrow's sun be high in Heav'n, 610
He, 'mid the foremost, if I augur right,
Wounded and bleeding in the dust shall lie,
And many a comrade round him. Would to Heav'n
I were as sure to be from age and death
Exempt, and held in honour as a God, 615
Phœbus, or Pallas, as I am assur'd
The coming day is fraught with ill to Greece."

Thus Hector spoke ; the Trojans shouted loud :
Then from the yoke the sweating steeds they loos'd,
And tether'd each beside their sev'ral cars : 620
Next from the city speedily they brought
Oxen and sheep ; the luscious wine procur'd ;
Brought bread from out their houses, and good store
Of fuel gather'd ; wafted from the plain,
The winds to Heav'n the sav'ry odours bore. 625
Full of proud hopes, upon the pass of war,
All night they camp'd ; and frequent blaz'd their fires.

As when in Heav'n, around the glitt'ring moon
The stars shine bright amid the breathless air ;
And ev'ry crag, and ev'ry jutting peak 630
Stands boldly forth, and ev'ry forest glade ;
Ev'n to the gates of Heav'n is open'd wide
The boundless sky ; shines each particular star
Distinct ; joy fills the gazing shepherd's heart.
So bright, so thickly scatter'd o'er the plain, 635
Before the walls of Troy, between the ships
And Xanthus' stream, the Trojan watchfires blaz'd.

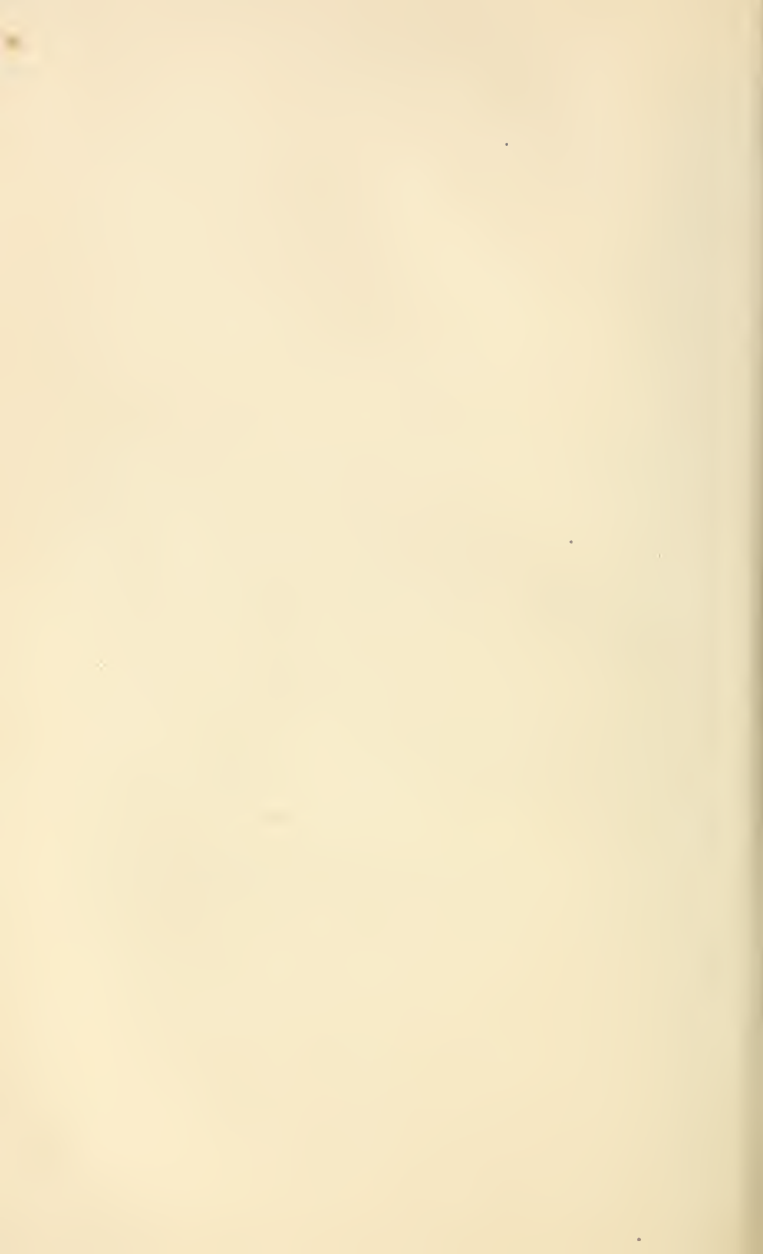
X A thousand fires burnt brightly ; and round each
Sat fifty warriors in the ruddy glare ;
Champing the provender before them laid, 640
Barley and rye, the tether'd horses stood
Beside the cars, and waited for the morn. 642

ARGUMENT.

THE EMBASSY TO ACHILLES.

Agamemnon, after the last day's defeat, proposes to the Greeks to quit the siege, and return to their country. Diomed opposes this, and Nestor seconds him, praising his wisdom and resolution. He orders the guard to be strengthened, and a council summoned to deliberate what measures were to be followed in this emergency. Agamemnon pursues this advice, and Nestor farther prevails upon him to send ambassadors to Achilles in order to move him to a reconciliation. Ulysses and Ajax are made choice of, who are accompanied by old Phœnix. They make, each of them, very moving and pressing speeches, but are rejected with roughness by Achilles, who notwithstanding retains Phœnix in his tent. The ambassadors return unsuccessfully to the camp, and the troops betake themselves to sleep.

This book, and the next following, take up the space of one night, which is the twenty-seventh from the beginning of the poem. The scene lies on the sea-shore, the station of the Grecian ships.



BOOK IX.

THUS kept their watch the Trojans ; but the Greeks
Dire Panic held, companion of chill Fear,
Their bravest struck with grief unbearable.
As when two stormy winds ruffle the sea,
Boreas and Zephyr, from the hills of Thrace 5
With sudden gust descending ; the dark waves
Rear high their angry crests, and toss on shore
Masses of tangled weed ; such stormy grief
The breast of ev'ry Grecian warrior rent.

Atrides, heart-struck, wander'd to and fro, 10
And to the clear-voic'd heralds gave command
To call, but not with proclamation loud,
Each sev'ral man to council ; he himself
Spar'd not his labour, mixing with the chiefs.
Sadly they sat in council ; Atreus' son, 15
Weeping, arose ; as some dark-water'd fount
Pours o'er a craggy steep its gloomy stream ;

Then with deep groans th' assembled Greeks address'd:
"O friends! the chiefs and councillors of Greece,
Grievous, and all unlook'd for, is the blow 20
Which Jove hath dealt me; by his promise led
I hop'd to raze the strong-built walls of Troy,
And home return in safety; but it seems
He falsifies his word, and bids me now
Return to Argos, frustrate of my hope, 25
Dishonour'd, and with grievous loss of men.
Such now appears th' o'er-ruling sov'reign will
Of Saturn's son, who oft hath sunk the heads
Of many a lofty city in the dust,
And yet will sink; for mighty is his hand. 30
Hear then my counsel; let us all agree
Home to direct our course: since here in vain
We strive to take the well-built walls of Troy."

The monarch spoke; they all in silence heard:
In speechless sorrow long they sat: at length 35
Rose valiant Diomed, and thus he spoke:
"Atrides, I thy folly must confront,
As is my right, in council: thou, O King!
Be not offended: once, among the Greeks

Thou heldest light my prowess, with the name 40
Of coward branding me; how justly so
Is known to all the Greeks, both young and old.
On thee the deep-designing Saturn's son
In diff'ring measure hath his gifts bestow'd :
A throne he gives thee, higher far than all ; 45
But valour, noblest boon of Heav'n, denies.
How eanst thou hope the sons of Greece shall prove
Such heartless dastards as thy words suppose?
If homeward to return thy mind be fix'd,
Depart ; the way is open, and the ships, 50
Which from Mycenæ follow'd thee in crowds,
Are close at hand, and ready to be launch'd.
Yet will the other long-hair'd Greeks remain
Till Priam's city fall : nay, though the rest
Betake them to their ships, and sail for home, 55
Yet I and Sthenelus, we two, will fight
Till Troy be ours ; for Heav'n is on our side."

Thus he ; the sons of Greece, with loud applause,
The speech of valiant Diomed confirm'd.

Then aged Nestor rose, and thus began : . 60

" Tydides, eminent thou art in war ;

And in the council thy compeers in age
Must yield to thee ; thy present words, no Greek
Can censure, or gainsay ; and yet the end
Thou hast not reach'd, and object of debate. 65

But thou art young, and for thine age mightst be
My latest born ; yet dost thou to the Kings
Sage counsel give, and well in season speak.
But now will I, that am thine elder far,
Go fully through the whole ; and none my words 70
May disregard, not ev'n Atrides' self.

Outcast from kindred, law, and hearth is he
Whose soul delights in fierce internal strife.
But yield we now to th' influence of night :
Prepare the meal ; and let the sev'ral guards 75
Be posted by the ditch, without the wall.

This duty on the younger men I lay :
Then, Agamemnon, thou thy part perform ;
For thou art King supreme ; the Elders all,
As meet and seemly, to the feast invite : 80

Thy tents are full of wine, which Grecian ships
O'er the wide sea bring day by day from Thrace ;

Nor lack'st thou aught thy guests to entertain,
And many own thy sway ; when all are met,
His counsel take, who gives the best advice ; 85
Great need we have of counsel wise and good,
When close beside our ships the hostile fires
Are burning : who can this unmov'd behold ?
This night our ruin or our safety sees."

He said ; and they, assenting, heard his speech. 90
Forth with their followers went th' appointed guards,
The princely Thrasymedes, Nestor's son,
Ascalaphus, and bold Ialmenus,
Two valiant sons of Mars ; Meriones,
And Aphareus, and brave Deïpyrus, 95
And godlike Lycomedes, Creon's son.
Sev'n were the leaders ; and with each went forth
A hundred gallant youths, with lances arm'd.
Between the ditch and wall they took their post ;
There lit their fires, and there the meal prepar'd. 100

Then for th' assembled Elders in his tent
An ample banquet Agamemnon spread ;
They on the viands, set before them, fell :
The rage of thirst and hunger satisfied,

The aged Nestor first his mind disclos'd ; 105

He who, before, the sagest counsel gave,

Now thus with prudent words began, and said :

“Most mighty Agamemnon, King of men,

With thee, Atrides, my discourse shall end,

With thee begin : o'er many nations thou 110

Hold'st sov'reign sway ; since Jove to thee hath giv'n

The sceptre, and the high prerogative,

To be thy people's judge and counsellor,

'Tis thine to speak the word, 'tis thine to hear

And to determine, when some other chief 115

Suggestions offers in the gen'ral cause :

What counsel shall prevail, depends on thee :

Yet will I say what seems to me the best.

Sounder opinion none can hold than this,

Which I maintain, and ever have maintain'd, 120

Ev'n from the day when thou, great King, didst bear

The fair Briseis from Achilles' tent

Despite his anger—not by my advice :

I fain would have dissuaded thee, but thou,

Following the dictates of thy wrathful pride, 125

Didst to our bravest wrong, dishon'ring him

Whom ev'n th' Immortals honour'd ; for his prize
Thou took'st and still retain'st ; but let us now
Consider, if ev'n yet, with costly gifts
And soothing words, we may his wrath appease." 130

To whom the monarch Agamemnon thus :
" Father, too truly thou recall'st my fault :
I err'd, nor will deny it ; as a host
Is he whom Jove in honour holds, as now
Achilles hon'ring, he confounds the Greeks. 135

But if I err'd, by evil impulse led,
Fain would I now conciliate him, and pay
An ample penalty ; before you all
I pledge myself rich presents to bestow.
Sev'n tripods will I give, untouch'd by fire ; 140
Of gold, ten talents, twenty caldrons bright,
Twelve pow'rful horses, on the course renown'd, /
Who by their speed have many prizes won.
Not empty-handed could that man be deem'd,
Nor poor in gold, who but so much possess'd 145
As by those horses has for me been won.

Sev'n women too, well skill'd in household cares,
Lesbians, whom I selected for myself,

That day he captur'd Lesbos' goodly isle,
In beauty far surpassing all their sex : 150
These will I give ; and with them will I send
The fair Briseis, her whom from his tent
I bore away ; and add a solemn oath,
I ne'er approach'd her bed, nor held with her
Such intercourse as man with woman holds. 155
All these shall now be his : but if the Gods
Shall grant us Priam's city to destroy,
Of gold and brass, when we divide the spoil,
With countless heaps he shall a vessel freight,
And twenty captives he himself shall choose, 160
All only less than Argive Helen fair.
And if it be our fate to see again
The teeming soil of Argos, he shall be
My son by marriage ; and in honour held
As is Orestes, who, my only son, 165
Is rear'd at home in luxury and ease.
Three daughters fair I have, Chrysothemis,
Iphianassa, and Laodice ;
Of these, whiche'er he will, to Peleus' house,
No portion ask'd for, he shall take to wife ; 170

And with her will I add such wedding gifts,
As never man before to daughter gave.
Sev'n prosp'rous towns besides; Cardamyle,
And Enope, and Ira's grassy plains;
And Pheræ, and Antheia's pastures deep, 175
Æpeia fair, and vine-clad Pedasus;
All by the sea, by sandy Pylos' bounds.
The dwellers there in flocks and herds are rich,
And, as a God, shall honour him with gifts,
And to his sceptre ample tribute pay. 180
This will I do, so he his wrath remit:
Then let him yield (Pluto alone remains
Unbending and inexorable; and thence
Of all the Gods is most abhorr'd of men),
To me submitting, as in royal pow'r 185
Superior far, and more advanc'd in age."

To whom Gerenian Nestor thus replied:
"Most mighty Agamemnon, King of men,
Atrides, not unworthy are the gifts,
Which to Achilles thou design'st to send: 190
Then to the tent of Peleus' son in haste
Let us our chosen messengers despatch:

Whom I shall choose, let them consent to go.

Then first of all let Phœnix lead the way,

Belov'd of Jove ; the mighty Ajax next : 195

With them, Ulysses sage ; and let them take,

Of heralds, Hœdius and Eurybates.

Bring now the hallowing water for our hands ;

And bid be silent, while to Saturn's son,

That he have mercy, we address our pray'r." 200

He said, and well his counsel pleas'd them all ;

The heralds pour'd the water on their hands ;

The youths, attending, crown'd the bowls with wine,

And in due order serv'd the cups to all.

Then, their libations made, when each with wine 205

Had satisfied his soul, from out the tent

Of Agamemnon, Atreus' son, they pass'd ;

And many a caution aged Nestor gave,

With rapid glance to each, Ulysses chief,

How best to soften Peleus' matchless son. 210

Beside the many-dashing ocean's shore

They mov'd along ; and many a pray'r address'd

To Neptune, Ocean's Earth-surrounding God,

That he to gentle counsels would incline

The haughty soul of great Æacides. 215

When to the ships and tents they came, where lay

The warlike Myrmidons, their chief they found

His spirit soothing with a sweet-ton'd lyre,

Of curious work, with silver band adorn'd ;

Part of the spoil he took, when he destroy'd 220

Eëtion's wealthy town ; on this he play'd,

Soothing his soul, and sang of warriors' deeds.

Before the chief, in silence and alone

Patroclus sat, upon Achilles fix'd

His eyes, awaiting till the song should cease. 225

The envoys forward stepp'd, Ulysses first,

And stood before him ; from his couch, amaz'd,

And holding still his lyre, Achilles sprang,

Leaving the seat whereon they found him plac'd ;

And at their entrance rose Patroclus too : 230

Waving his hand, Achilles, swift of foot,

Address'd them: "Welcome, friends! as friends ye come:

Some great occasion surely to my tent

Hath brought the men who are, of all the Greeks,

Despite my anger, dearest to my heart." 235

Thus as he spoke, he led them in, and plac'd

On couches spread with purple carpets o'er,
Then thus address'd Patroclus at his side :
" Son of Menœtius, set upon the board
A larger bowl, and stronger mix the wine, 240
And serve a cup to each : beneath my roof
This night my dearest friends I entertain."
He said ; Patroclus his commands obey'd ;
And in the fire-light plac'd an ample tray,
And on it laid of goat's flesh and of sheep's 245
A saddle each ; and with them, rich in fat,
A chine of well-fed hog ; Automedon
Held fast, while great Achilles carv'd the joints.
The meat, prepar'd, he fix'd upon the spits :
Patroclus kindled then a blazing fire ; 250
And when the fire burnt hotly, and the flame
Subsided, spread the glowing embers out,
And hung the spits above ; then sprinkled o'er
The meat with salt, and lifted from the stand.
The viands cook'd and plac'd upon the board, 255
From baskets fair Patroclus portion'd out
The bread to each ; the meat Achilles shar'd.
Facing the sage Ulysses, sat the host

On th' other side the tent ; and bade his friend,
Patroclus, give the Gods their honours due : 260
He in the fire the wonted off'rings burnt :
They on the viands set before them fell.
The rage of thirst and hunger satisfied,
Ajax to Phœnix sign'd : Ulysses saw
The sign, and rising, fill'd a cup with wine, 265
And pledg'd Achilles thus : " To thee I drink,
Achilles ! nobly is thy table spread,
As heretofore in Agamemnon's tent,
So now in thine ; abundant is the feast :
But not the pleasures of the banquet now 270
We have in hand : impending o'er our arms
Grave cause of fear, illustrious chief, we see ;
Grave doubts, to save, or see destroy'd our ships,
If thou, great warrior, put not forth thy might.
For close beside the ships and wall are camp'd 275
The haughty Trojans and renown'd allies :
Their watch-fires frequent burn throughout the camp ;
And loud their boast that nought shall stay their hands,
Until our dark-ribb'd ships be made their prey.
Jove too for them, with fav'ring augury 280

Sends forth his lightning ; boastful of his strength,
And firmly trusting in the aid of Jove,
Hector, resistless, rages ; nought he fears
Or God or man, with martial fury fir'd.
He prays, impatient, for th' approach of morn ; 285
Then, breaking through the lofty sterns, resolv'd
To the devouring flames to give the ships,
And slay the crews, bewilder'd in the smoke.
And much my mind misgives me, lest the Gods
His threats fulfil, and we be fated here 290
To perish, far from Argos' grassy plains.
Up then ! if in their last extremity
Thy spirit inclines, though late, to save the Greeks
Sore press'd by Trojan arms : lest thou thyself
Hereafter feel remorse ; the evil done 295
Is past all cure ; then thou reflect betimes
How from the Greeks to ward the day of doom.
Dear friend, remember now thy father's words,
The aged Peleus, when to Atreus' son
He sent thee forth from Phthia, how he said, 300
' My son, the boon of strength, if so they will,
Juno or Pallas have the pow'r to give ;

But thou thyself thy haughty spirit must curb,
For better far is gentle courtesy :
And cease from angry strife, that so the Greeks 305
The more may honour thee, both young and old.'
Such were the words thine aged father spoke,
Which thou hast now forgotten ; yet, e'en now,
Pause for awhile, and let thine anger cool ;
And noble gifts, so thou thy wrath remit, 310
From Agamemnon shalt thou bear away.
Listen to me, while I recount the gifts
Which in his tent he pledg'd him to bestow.
Sev'n tripods promis'd he, untouch'd by fire,
Of gold, ten talents, twenty caldrons bright, 315
Twelve pow'rful horses, in the course renown'd,
Who by their speed have many prizes won.
Not empty-handed could that man be deem'd,
Nor poor in gold, who but so much possess'd
As by those horses has for him been won. 320
Sev'n women too, well skill'd in household cares,
Lesbians, whom he selected for himself,
That day thou captur'dst Lesbos' goodly isle,
In beauty far surpassing all their sex.

These will he give ; and with them will he send 325
The fair Briseis, her whom from thy tent
He bore away ; and add a solemn oath,
He ne'er approach'd her bed, nor held with her
Such intercourse as man with woman holds.
All these shall now be thine : but if the Gods 330
Shall grant us Priam's city to destroy,
Of gold and brass, when we divide the spoil,
With countless heaps a vessel shalt thou freight,
And twenty captives thou thyself shalt choose,
All only less than Argive Helen fair. 335
And if it be our fate to see again
The teeming soil of Argos, thou mayst be
His son by marriage, and in honour held
As is Orestes, who, his only son,
Is rear'd at home in luxury and ease. 340
Three daughters fair are his, Chrysothemis,
Iphianassa, and Laodice ;
Of these whiche'er thou wilt, to Peleus' house,
No portion ask'd for, thou shalt take to wife ;
And with her will he add such wedding gifts, 345
As never man before to daughter gave.

Sev'n prosp'rous towns besides ; Cardamyle,
And Enope, and Ira's grassy plains,
And Pheræ, and Antheia's pastures deep,
Æpeia fair, and vine-clad Pedasus ; 350
All by the sea, by sandy Pylos' bounds.
The dwellers there in flocks and herds are rich,
And, as a God, will honour thee with gifts,
And to thy sceptre ample tribute pay.
All these he gives, so thou thy wrath remit. 355
But if thou hold Atrides in such hate,
Him and his gifts, yet let thy pity rest
On all the other Greeks, thus sore bested ;
By whom thou shalt be honour'd as a God :
For great the triumph that thou now mayst gain ;
E'en Hector's self is now within thy reach ; 361
For he is near at hand ; and in his pride
And martial fury deems that none, of all
Our ships contain, can rival him in arms."

Whom answer'd thus Achilles, swift of foot: 365
 "Heav'n-born Ulysses, sage in council, son
 Of great Laertes, I must frankly speak
 My mind at once, my fix'd resolve declare:

That from henceforth I may not by the Greeks,
By this man and by that, be importun'd. 370
Him as the gates of hell my soul abhors,
Whose outward words his secret thoughts belie.
Hear then what seems to me the wisest course.
On me nor Agamemnon, Atreus' son,
Nor others shall prevail, since nought is gain'd 375
By toil unceasing in the battle field.
Who nobly fight, but share with those who skulk ;
Like honours gain the coward and the brave ;
Alike the idlers and the active die :
And nought it profits me, though day by day 380
In constant toil I set my life at stake ;
But as a bird, though ill she fare herself,
Brings to her callow brood the food she takes,
So I through many a sleepless night have lain,
And many a bloody day have labour'd through, 385
Engag'd in battle on your wives' behalf.
Twelve cities have I taken with my ships ;
Eleven more by land, on Trojan soil :
From all of these abundant stores of wealth
I took, and all to Agamemnon gave ; 390

He, safe beside his ships, my spoils receiv'd,
A few divided, but the most retain'd.
To other chiefs and Kings he meted out
Their sev'ral portions, and they hold them still;
From me, from me alone of all the Greeks, 395
He bore away, and keeps my cherish'd wife;
Well! let him keep her, solace of his bed!
But say then, why do Greeks with Trojans fight?
Why hath Atrides brought this mighty host
To Troy, if not in fair-hair'd Helen's cause? 400
Of mortals are there none that love their wives,
Save Atreus' sons alone? or do not all,
Who boast the praise of sense and virtue, love
And cherish each his own? as her I lov'd 404
E'en from my soul, though captive of my spear.
Now, since he once hath robb'd me, and deceiv'd,
Let him not seek my aid; I know him now,
And am not to be won; let him devise,
With thee, Ulysses, and the other Kings,
How best from hostile fires to save his ships. 410
He hath completed many mighty works
Without my aid; hath built a lofty wall,

And dug a trench around it, wide and deep,
And in the trench hath fix'd a palisade ;
Nor so the warrior-slayer Hector's might 415
Can keep in check ; while I was in the field,
Not far without the walls would Hector range
His line of battle, nor beyond the Oak
And Scæan gates would venture ; there indeed
He once presum'd to meet me, hand to hand, 420
And from my onset narrowly escap'd.
But as with Hector now no more I fight,
To-morrow morn, my off'rings made to Jove,
And all the Gods, and freighted well my ships,
And launch'd upon the main, thyself shall see, 425
If that thou care to see, my vessels spread
O'er the broad bosom of the Hellespont,
My lusty crews plying the vig'rous oar ;
And if th' Earth-shaker send a fav'ring breeze,
Three days will bear us home to Phthia's shore. 430
There did I leave abundant store of wealth,
When hitherward I took my luckless way ;
Thither from hence I bear, of ruddy gold,
And brass, and women fair, and iron hoar

The share assign'd me ; but my chiefest prize 435

The monarch Agamemnon, Atreus' son,

Himself who gave, with insult takes away.

To him then speak aloud the words I send,

That all may know his crimes, if yet he hope

Some other Greek by treach'rous wiles to cheat, 440

Cloth'd as he is in shamelessness ! my glance,

All brazen as he is, he dare not meet.

I share no more his counsels, nor his acts ;

He hath deceiv'd me once, and wrong'd ; again

He shall not cozen me ! Of him, enough ! 445

I pass him by, whom Jove hath robb'd of sense.

His gifts I loathe, and spurn ; himself I hold

At a hair's worth ; and would he proffer me

Tenfold or twentyfold of all he has,

Or ever may be his ; or all the gold 450

Sent to Orchomenos or royal Thebes,

Egyptian, treasurehouse of countless wealth,

Who boasts her hundred gates, through each of which

With horse and car two hundred warriors march :

Nay, were his gifts in number as the sand, 455

Or dust upon the plain, yet ne'er will I

By Agamemnon be prevail'd upon,
Till I have paid him back my heart's offence.
Nor e'er of Agamemnon, Atreus' son,
Will I a daughter wed ; not were she fair 460
As golden Venus, and in works renown'd
As Pallas, blue-ey'd Maid, yet her e'en so
I wed not ; let him choose some other Greek,
Some fitting match, of nobler blood than mine.
But should the Gods in safety bring me home, 465
At Peleus' hands I may receive a wife ;
And Greece can boast of many a lovely maid,
In Hellas or in Phthia, daughters fair
Of chiefs who hold their native fortresses :
Of these, at will, a wife I may select : 470
And ofttimes hath my warlike soul inclin'd
To take a wedded wife, a fitting bride,
And aged Peleus' wealth in peace enjoy.
For not the stores which Troy, they say, contain'd
In peaceful times, ere came the sons of Greece, 475
Nor all the treasures which Apollo's shrine,
The Archer-God, in rock-built Pythos holds,
May weigh with life ; of oxen and of sheep

Successful forays may good store provide ;
And tripods may be gain'd, and noble steeds : 480
But when the breath of man hath pass'd his lips,
Nor strength nor foray can the loss repair.
I by my Goddess-mother have been warn'd;
The silver-footed Thetis, that o'er me
A double chance of destiny impends : 485
If here remaining, round the walls of Troy
I wage the war, I ne'er shall see my home,
But then undying glory shall be mine :
If I return, and see my native land,
My glory all is gone ; but length of life 490
Shall then be mine, and death be long deferr'd.
If others ask'd my counsel, I should say,
' Homeward direct your course ; of lofty Troy
Ye see not yet the end ; all-seeing Jove
O'er her extends his hand ; on him relying 495
Her people all with confidence are fill'd.'
Go then ; my answer to the chiefs of Greece
Speak boldly—such the privilege of age—
Bid that some better counsel they devise
To save their ships and men ; their present scheme,

My anger unappeas'd, avails them nought. 501

But Phoenix here shall stay, and sleep to-night ;

And with the morrow he with me shall sail

And seek our native land, if so he will :

For not by force will I remove him hence." 505

He said ; they all, confounded by his words,
In silence heard ; so sternly did he speak.

At length, in tears, the aged Phoenix spoke,
For greatly fear'd he for the ships of Greece :

" If, great Achilles, on returning home 510

Thy mind is set, nor canst thou be induc'd

To save the ships from fire, so fierce thy wrath ;

How then, dear boy, can I remain behind,

Alone ? whom with thee aged Peleus sent,

That day when he in Agamemnon's cause 515

From Phthia sent thee, inexperience'd yet

In all the duties of confed'rate war,

And sage debate, on which attends renown.

Me then he sent, instructor of thy youth,

To prompt thy language, and thine acts to guide. 520

So not from thee, dear boy, can I consent

To part, though Heav'n should undertake my age

To wipe away, and vig'rous youth restore,
Such as I boasted, when from Greece I fled
Before my angry sire, Amyntor, son 525
Of Ormenus; a fair-hair'd concubine
Cause of the quarrel; her my father lov'd,
And by her love estrang'd, despis'd his wife,
My mother; oft she pray'd me to seduce,
To vex th' old man, my father's concubine; 530
I yielded; he, suspecting, on my head
A curse invok'd, and on the Furies call'd
His curse to witness, that upon his knees
No child, by me begotten, e'er should sit:
His curse the Gods have heard, and ratified, 535
Th' infernal King, and awful Proserpine.
Then would I fain have slain him with the sword,
Had not some God my rising fury quell'd,
And set before my mind the public voice,
The odium I should have to bear 'mid Greeks, 540
If branded with the name of parricide.
But longer in my angry father's house
To dwell, my spirit brook'd not, though my friends
And kinsmen all besought me to remain;

And many a goodly sheep, and many a steer 545
They slew, and many swine, with fat o'erlaid,
They sing'd, and roasted o'er the burning coals ;
And drank in many a cup the old man's wine.
Nine nights they kept me in continual watch,
By turns relieving guards. The fires meanwhile 550
Burnt constant : one beneath the porch that fac'd
The well-fenc'd court ; one in the vestibule
Before my chamber door. The tenth dark night
My chamber's closely-fitting doors I broke,
And lightly vaulted o'er the court-yard fence, 555
By guards alike and servant maids unmark'd.
Through all the breadth of Hellas then I fled,
Until at length to Phthia's fruitful soil,
Mother of flocks, to Peleus' realm I came,
Who kindly welcom'd me, and with such love 560
As to his only son, his well-belov'd,
A father shows, his gen'rous gifts bestow'd.
He gave me wealth, he gave me ample rule ;
And on the bounds of Phthia bade me dwell,
And o'er the Dolopes hold sov'reign sway. 565
Thee too, Achilles, rival of the Gods,

Such as thou art I made thee ; from my soul
I lov'd thee ; nor wouldst thou with others go
Or to the meal, or in the house be fed,
Till on my knee thou satt'st, and by my hand 570
Thy food were cut, the cup were tender'd thee ;
And often, in thy childish helplessness,
The bosom of my dress with wine was drench'd ;
Such care I had of thee, such pains I took,
Rememb'ring that by Heav'n's decree, no son 575
Of mine I e'er might see ; then thee I made,
Achilles, rival of the Gods, my son,
That thou mightst be the guardian of mine age.
But thou, Achilles, curb thy noble rage ;
A heart implacable beseems thee not. 580
The Gods themselves, in virtue, honour, strength,
Excelling thee, may yet be mollified ;
For they, when mortals have transgress'd, or fail'd
To do aright, by sacrifice and pray'r,
Libations and burnt-off'rings, may be sooth'd. 585
Pray'rs are the daughters of immortal Jove ;
But halt, and wrinkled, and of feeble sight,
They plod in Ate's track ; while Ate, strong

And swift of foot, outstrips their laggard pace,
And, dealing woe to man, o'er all the earth 590
Before them flies : they, following, heal her wounds.
Him who with honour welcomes their approach,
They greatly aid, and hear him when he prays ;
But who rejects, and sternly casts them off,
To Saturn's son they go, and make their pray'r 595
That Ate follow him and claim her dues.
Then to the daughters of immortal Jove,
Do thou, Achilles, show the like respect,
That many another brave man's heart hath sway'd. ·
If to thy tent no gifts Atrides brought, 600
With promises of more, but still retain'd
His vehement enmity, I could not ask
That thou thy cherish'd anger shouldst discard,
And aid the Greeks, how great so-e'er their need.
But now large off'rings hath he giv'n, and more 605
Hath promis'd ; and, of all the Greeks, hath sent
To pray thine aid, the men thou lov'st the best.
Discredit not their mission, nor their words.
Till now, I grant thee, none could blame thy wrath.
In praise of men in ancient days renown'd, 610

This have we heard, that how-so-e'er might rage
Their hostile feuds, their anger might be still
By gifts averted, and by words appeas'd.

One case I bear in mind, in times long past,
And not in later days ; and here, 'mid friends, 615
How all occur'd, will I at length recite.

Time was, that with Ætolia's warlike bands
Round Calydon the Acarnanians fought
With mutual slaughter ; these to save the town,
The Acarnanians burning to destroy. 620

This curse of war the golden-thronèd Queen
Diana sent, in anger that from her
Cæneus the first-fruits of his field withheld.
The other Gods their hecatombs receiv'd ;
Diana's shrine alone no off'rings deck'd, 625
Neglected, or o'erlook'd ; the sin was great ;
And in her wrath the arrow-darting Queen
A savage wild-boar sent, with gleaming tusks,
Which Cæneus' vineyard haunting, wrought him harm.
There laid he prostrate many a stately tree, 630
With root and branch, with blossom and with fruit.
Him Meleager, son of Cæneus, slew,

With youths and dogs from all the neighbouring towns
Collected ; smaller force had not avail'd,
So huge he was, so fierce ; and many a youth 635
Had by his tusks been laid upon the bier.
A fierce contention then the Goddess rais'd,
For the boar's head and bristly hide, between
The Acarnanian and th' Ætolian bands.
While warlike Meleager kept the field, 640
So long the Acarnanians far'd but ill ;
Nor dar'd, despite the numbers of their host,
Maintain their ground before the city walls.
When he to anger yielded, which sometimes
Swells in the bosom e'en of wisest men, 645
Incens'd against his mother, he withdrew
To Cleopatra fair, his wedded wife ;
(Marpessa her, Evenus' daughter, bore
To Idas, strongest man of all who then
Were living, who against Apollo's self 650
For the neat-footed maiden bent his bow.
Her parents call'd the child Aleyone,
In men'ry of the tears her mother shed,
Rival of Aleyon's melancholy fate,

When by far-darting Phœbus forc'd away). 655
With her, retiring from the field, he nurs'd
His wrath ; resenting thus his mother's curse,
Althæa ; she her brother's death bore hard,
And pray'd to Heav'n above, and with her hands
Beating the solid earth, the nether pow'rs, 660
Pluto and awful Proserpine, implor'd,
Down on her knees, her bosom wet with tears,
Death on her son invoking ; from the depths
Of Erebus Erinnys heard her pray'r,
Gloom-haunting Goddess, dark and stern of heart. 665
Soon round the gates the din of battle rose,
The tow'rs by storm assaulted ; then his aid
Th' Ætonian Elders and the sacred priests
With promises of great reward implor'd.
A fruitful plot they bade him set apart, 670
The richest land in lovely Calydon,
Of fifty acres : half for vineyard meet,
And half of fertile plain, for tillage clear'd.
Upon the threshold of his lofty rooms
Old Ceneus stood, and at the portals clos'd 675
He knock'd in vain, a suppliant to his son.

His sisters and his brother join'd their pray'rs,
But sterner his rejection of their suit ;
The friends he valued most, and lov'd the best,
Yet they too fail'd his fix'd resolve to shake ; 680
Till to his very doors the war had reach'd,
The foe upon the tow'rs, the town in flames :
Then Meleager's beauteous wife, at length,
In tears, beseeching him, the thousand ills
Recall'd, which on a captur'd town attend ; 685
The slaughter'd men, the city burnt with fire,
The helpless children and deep-bosom'd dames
A prey to strangers. List'ning to the tale,
His spirit was rous'd within him ; and again
He took the field, and donn'd his glitt'ring arms.
Thus did his act from doom th' Ætolians save 691
Spontaneous ; yet he gain'd not, though he sav'd,
The rich reward they once were pledg'd to give.
But be not thou like him, nor let thy God
Turn thitherward thy thoughts ; our ships on fire, 695
Thine aid will less be priz'd ; come, take the gifts,
And as a God be honour'd by the Greeks.
If thou hereafter, unsolicited,

The battle join, the Greeks thou mayst protect,
But not an equal share of honour gain." 700

Whom answer'd thus Achilles, swift of foot :
" Phœnix, my second father, rev'rend sire,
Such honours move me not ; my honour comes
From Jove, whose will it is that I should here
Remain beside the ships, while I retain 705
Breath in my lungs and vigour in my limbs.
This too I say, and bear it in thy mind :
Disturb me not with weeping and complaints,
To do Atrides grace ; if him thou love,
My love for thee perchance may turn to hate : 710
My friend should honour him who honours me.
But come with me, and of my kingdom half,
And equal honours shalt thou share with me.
These shall our message bear ; stay thou the while,
And on soft couch repose ; to-morrow morn 715
Will we determine or to sail or stay."

He said, and with his eyebrows gave a sign
In silence to Patroclus, to prepare
A bed for Phœnix, that without delay
The rest might leave the tent ; then thus began

Ajax, the godlike son of Telamon: 721

“ Ulysses sage, Laertes' high-born son,
Depart we now ; for this way our discourse
Can lead to no result ; behoves us bear
Our tidings, all unwelcome as they are, 725

Back to the chiefs awaiting our return.
Achilles hath allow'd his noble heart
To cherish rancour and malignant hate ;
Nor reckes he of his old companions' love,
Wherewith we honour'd him above the rest. 730

Relentless he ! a son's or brother's death,
By payment of a fine, may be aton'd ;
The slayer may remain in peace at home,
The debt discharg'd ; the other will forego,
The forfeiture receiv'd, his just revenge ; 735

But thou maintain'st a stern, obdurate mood,
And for a single girl ! we offer sev'n,
Surpassing fair, and other gifts to boot.

We now bespeak thy courtesy ; respect
Thy hearth ; remember that beneath thy roof 740

We stand, deputed by the gen'ral voice
Of all the host ; and fain would claim to be,

Of all the Greeks, thy best and dearest friends."

Whom answer'd thus Achilles, swift of foot :

"Illustrious Ajax, son of Telamon, 745

Without offence hast thou thy message giv'n ;

But fury fills my soul, whene'er I think

How Agamemnon, 'mid th' assembled Greeks,

Insulting, held me forth to public scorn,

As some dishonour'd, houseless vagabond. 750

But go ye now, and bear my answer back :

No more in bloody war will I engage,

Till noble Hector, Priam's godlike son,

O'er slaughter'd Greeks, your ships enwrapp'd in **fire**,

Shall reach the quarters of the Myrmidons. 755

Ere he assail my ship and tents, I think

That Hector, valiant as he is, will pause."

Thus he : they each the double goblet rais'd,

And, to the Gods their due libations pour'd,

Ulysses leading, to the ships return'd. 760

Meanwhile Patroclus bade th' attendant maids

Prepare a bed for Phœnix ; they obey'd,

And quickly laid the bed with fleeces warm,

And rugs, and linen light and fine o'erspread.

There slept th' old man, and waited for the morn. 765
Within the tent's recess Achilles slept ;
And by his side, from Lesbos captive brought,
Daughter of Phorbas, Diomede fair ;
On th' other side Patroclus lay ; with him
The graceful Iphis, whom, when Scyros' isle 770
He captur'd, and Enyes' rock-built fort,
Achilles to his lov'd companion gave.

When to Atrides' tent the envoys came,
The chiefs, uprising, pledg'd them one by one
In golden goblets ; then their tidings ask'd. 775
First Agamemnon, King of men, enquir'd :
“ Tell me, renown'd Ulysses, pride of Greece,
What says he : will he save our ships from fire,
Or still, in wrathful mood, withhold his aid ? ”

To whom again Ulysses, stout of heart : 780
“ Most mighty Agamemnon, King of men,
His anger is not quench'd, but fiercer still
It glows ; thy gifts and thee alike he spurns ;
He bids thee with the other chiefs concert
The means thy people and thy ships to save ; 785
And menaces himself at early dawn

To launch his well-trimm'd vessels on the main.

Nay more, he counsels others, so he says,

Homeward to turn, since here of lofty Troy

We see not yet the end ; all-sceing Jove 790

O'er her extends his hand ; on him relying,

Her people all with confidence are fill'd.

Such was his language ; here before you stand

Ajax and both the heralds, sage, grave men,

Who with me went, and will confirm my words. 795

Old Phoenix left we there, so will'd the chief,

That with the morrow he with him may sail,

And seek their native land, if so he will ;

For not by force will he remove him hence."

Ulysses thus ; they all in silence heard, 800

Amaz'd, so stern the message that he bore.

Long time in silence sat the chiefs of Greece.

Outspoke at length the valiant Diomed :

" Most mighty Agamemnon, King of men,

Would that thou ne'er hadst stoop'd with costly gifts

To sue for aid from Peleus' matchless son ; 806

For he before was over-proud, and now

Thine offers will have tenfold swell'd his pride.

But leave we him, according to his will,
To go or stay : he then will join the fight, 810
When his own spirit shall prompt, or Heav'n inspire.
But hear ye all, and do as I advise :
Refresh'd with food and wine (for therein lie
Both strength and courage), turn we to our rest ;
And when the rosy-finger'd morn appears, 815
Thyself among the foremost, with bold hearts,
Before our ships both horse and foot array."

He said ; and all the chiefs with loud applause
His speech confirm'd ; then, due libations pour'd,
Each to his sev'ral tent they all withdrew ; 820
Then laid them down, and sought the boon of sleep. 821

ARGUMENT.

THE NIGHT ADVENTURE OF DIOMED AND ULYSSES.

Upon the refusal of Achilles to return to the army, the distress of Agamemnon is described in the most lively manner. He takes no rest that night, but passes through the camp, awaking the leaders, and contriving all possible methods for the public safety. Meneläus, Nestor, Ulysses, and Diomed, are employed in raising the rest of the captains. They call a council of war, and determine to send scouts into the enemy's camp, to learn their posture, and discover their intentions. Diomed undertakes the hazardous enterprise, and makes choice of Ulysses for his companion. In their passage they surprise Dolon, whom Hector had sent on a like design to the camp of the Grecians. From him they are informed of the situation of the Trojans and auxiliary forces, and particularly of Rhesus, and the Thracians, who were lately arrived. They pass on with success; kill Rhesus with several of his officers, and seize the famous horses of that prince, with which they return in triumph to the camp.

The same night continues; the scene lies in the two camps.

BOOK X.

IN night-long slumbers lay the other chiefs
Of all the Greeks, by gentle sleep subdued ;
But not on Agamemnon, Atreus' son,
By various cares oppress'd, sweet slumber fell.
As when from Jove, the fair-hair'd Juno's Lord, 5
Flashes the lightning, bringing in its train
Tempestuous storm of mingled rain and hail
Or snow, by winter sprinkled o'er the fields ;
Or op'ning wide the rav'nous jaws of war ;
So Agamemnon from his inmost heart 10
Pour'd forth in groans his multitudinous grief,
His spirit within him sinking. On the plain
He look'd, and there, alarm'd, the watchfires saw,
Which, far advanc'd before the walls of Troy,
Blaz'd numberless ; and thence of pipes and flutes 15
He heard the sound, and busy hum of men.
Upon the ships he look'd, and men of Greece,

And by the roots his hair in handfuls tore
To Jove on high ; deep groan'd his mighty heart.
Thus as he mus'd, the wisest course appear'd, 20
With Nestor, son of Neleus, to confer,
If they some scheme in council might devise
To ward destruction from the Grecian host.
He rose, and o'er his body drew his vest,
And underneath his well-turn'd feet he bound 25
His sandals fair ; then o'er his shoulders threw,
Down reaching to his feet, a lion's skin,
Tawny and vast ; then grasp'd his pond'rous spear.

On Meneläus weigh'd an equal dread ;
Nor on his eyes that night had slumber sat, 30
Lest ill befall the Greeks ; who, in his cause,
Crossing the wat'ry waste, had come to Troy,
And bold defiance to the Trojans giv'n.
Round his broad chest a panther's skin he threw ;
Then on his head his brazen helmet plac'd, 35
And in his brawny hand a lance he bore.
To meet his brother went he forth, of Greece
The mighty monarch, as a God rever'd.
Him by the ship he found, in act to arm ;

And welcome was his presence to the King. 40

Then valiant Meneläus first began :

“ Why thus in arms, good brother? seek'st thou one

The Trojan camp to spy? I greatly fear

That none will undertake the task, alone

To spy the movements of the hostile camp 45

In the dark night; stout-hearted he must be.”

To whom the monarch Agamemnon thus :

“ Great need, my noble brother, have we both

Of sagest counsels, if we hope the Greeks

And Grecian ships from ruin to preserve, 50

Since turn'd against us is the mind of Jove.

To Hector's off'rings most his soul inclines ;

For never have I seen, or heard men tell,

How in one day one man has wrought such loss

As Hector, dear to Jove, yet not the son 55

Of God or Goddess, on the Greeks has wrought.

Such deeds hath he achiev'd, such havoc made,

As we shall long in bitter mem'ry keep.

Haste thou amid the ships, and hither bring

Idomeneus and Ajax; I the while 60

Will Nestor rouse, and urge that he with us

The outposts visit, and instruct the guard.
To him they best will listen; for his son
Commands the watch; with him Meriones,
The follower of the King Idomeneus: 65
To them by preference hath this charge been giv'n."

He said: and Meneläus answer'd thus:
"What wouldst thou have me do then? here remain
With them, and wait thy coming, or to them
Thy message give, and follow in thy steps?" 70

Him answer'd Agamemnon, King of men:
"Remain thou here, lest haply we might fail
To meet; for in the camp are many paths.
But thou, where'er thou go'st, each sev'ral man
Address, and ask to rise; to each his name 75
And patronymic giving; pay to each
All due respect; nor bear thee haughtily;
We like the rest must share the load of toil,
Which Jove assigns to all of mortal birth."

His brother thus with counsels wise dismiss'd, 80
The King to aged Nestor took his way:
Him by his tent and dark-ribb'd ship he found
On a soft couch; beside him lay his arms,

His shield, two lances, and a glitt'ring helm :
There lay the rich-wrought belt the old man wore, 85
When to the battle, arm'd, he led his troops ;
For nought to age's weakness would he yield.
Raising his head, and on his elbow propp'd,
He question'd thus Atrides : " Who art thou,
That wand'rest through th' encampment thus alone, 90
In the dark night, when other mortals sleep ?
Seek'st thou some mule broke loose, or comrade lost ?
Speak, nor in silence come ; what wouldst thou here ?"

To whom thus Agamemnon, King of men :
" O Nestor ! son of Neleus, pride of Greece, 95
Know me for Agamemnon, Atreus' son,
On whom hath Jove, beyond the lot of men,
Laid grief that ne'er shall end, while I retain
Breath in my lungs, and vigour in my limbs.
I wander thus, because these eyes of mine 100
Sweet slumber visits not, by cares of war
Oppress'd, and harass'd by the woes of Greece.
Much for the Greeks I fear ; nor keeps my mind
Its wonted firmness ; I am ill at ease ;
And leaps my troubled heart as tho' 'twould burst 105

My bosom's bounds ; my limbs beneath me shake.
But if thou wilt, since thou too know'st not sleep,
Together to the outposts let us go,
And see if there, by toil and sleep o'erpow'r'd,
The guard repose, neglectful of their watch. 110
The foe is close at hand ; nor are we sure
He may not hazard e'en a night attack."

To whom Gerenian Nestor thus replied ;
" Most mighty Agamemnon, King of men,
Not all the hopes that Hector entertains 115
Shall by the Lord of counsel be fulfill'd ;
For him are toil and danger yet in store,
If but Achilles of his wrath repent.
Gladly will I attend thee ; others too,
Tydides, spearman bold, Ulysses sage, 120
Ajax the swift, and Phyleus' noble son,
Should all be summon'd ; and 'twere well that one
Across the camp should run, to call in haste
The godlike Ajax, and Idomeneus ;
Theirs are the farthest ships, nor near at hand. 125
But, dear to me as Meneläus is,
And highly honour'd, I must blame, that thus

(Though thou shouldst take offence, I needs must say)

He sleeps, and leaves the toil to thee alone.

With all the chiefs he should be busied now, 130

Imploring aid, in this our utmost need."

To whom thus Agamemnon, King of men :

"For other times, old man, reserve thy blame ;

Sometimes, I own, he lags behind, nor takes

His share of labour ; not from indolence, 135

Or want of sense ; but still regarding me ;

Waiting from me an impulse to receive.

But now, before me he was up, and came

To visit me ; and I have sent him on

To call those very men whom thou hast nam'd. 140

Come then ; for we, beside the gates, and guard

Shall find them ; there my orders were to meet."

To whom Gerenian Nestor thus replied ;

"Then none can blame him ; nor can any Greek

Justly refuse his summons to obey." 145

He said, and round his body wrapped his vest ;

Then on his feet his sandals fair he bound,

And o'er his shoulders clasp'd a purple cloak,

Doubled, with ample folds, and downy pile ;

Then took his spear, with point of sharpen'd brass, 150
And through the camp prepar'd to take his way.

Gerenian Nestor from his slumbers first

Ulysses, sage as Jove in council, rous'd,

Loud shouting; soon the voice his senses reach'd;

Forth from his tent he came, and thus he spoke: 155

“What cause so urgent leads you, through the camp,
In the dark night to wander thus alone?”

To whom Gerenian Nestor thus replied:

“Ulysses sage, Laertes' godlike son,

Be not offended; such the stress that now 160

Weights down our army; come thou then with us,

And others let us call; with whom 'tis meet

That we should counsel take, to fight or fly.”

He said; Ulysses to the tent return'd;

Then, his broad shield across his shoulders thrown, 165

Came forth again, and with them took his way.

To Diomed, the son of Tydeus, next

They went; and him they found beside his arms,

Without his tent; his comrades slept around,

Their heads upon their bucklers laid; their spears

Stood upright, on the butts; the burnish'd brass 171

Like Heav'n's own lightning, flashing far around.

Stretch'd on a wild bull's hide the chief repos'd,

A gay-wrought carpet roll'd beneath his head.

Gerenian Nestor close behind him stood, 175

And touched him with his foot, and thus in tone

Reproachful spoke : " Arouse thee, Tydeus' son !

Why sleep'st thou thus all night ? or know'st thou not

That on the very margin of the plain,

And close beside the ships the Trojans lie, 180

And little space between the camps is left ?"

Quick rous'd from sleep, thus answer'd Diomed :

" Beshrew thy heart, old man ! no labour seems

For thee too hard ; are there not younger men

To run about the camp, and summon all 185

The sev'ral chiefs ? thou dost too much, old man."

To whom Gerenian Nestor thus replied :

" True, friend, and full of wisdom are thy words ;

Good sons indeed I have, and followers brave

And many, who might well my message bear ; 190

But great is now the stress that lies on Greece ;

For on a razor's edge is balanc'd now,

To all the Greeks, the chance of life or death.

Do thou then go (for thou my younger art),
And if thou pity me, thyself arouse 195
Ajax the swift, and Phyleus' noble son."
He said ; the warrior round his shoulders threw,
Down reaching to his feet, a lion's hide,
Tawny and dark ; and took his pond'rous spear.
He went, arous'd, and with him brought the chiefs. 200

When to the guard they came, not sunk in sleep
Found they the leaders ; but on wakeful watch
Intent, and all alert beside their arms.
As round a sheepfold keep their anxious watch
The dogs, who in the neighbouring thicket hear 205
Some beast, that, bold in search of prey, has come
Down from the mountain ; loud the clamours rise
Of men and dogs ; all sleep is banish'd thence ;
So from their eyes was banish'd sleep, who watch'd
Through that disastrous night ; still plainward turning
At ev'ry movement in the Trojan camp. 211
The old man saw, well-pleas'd ; and thus address'd
With cheering words the captains of the guard :
" Watch ever thus, good youths ; nor be surpris'd
By slumber, lest the foe a triumph gain." 215

This said, he cross'd the ditch, and with him went
The Grecian leaders, to the council call'd:
With them, admitted to the conf'rence, went
Meriones, and Nestor's noble son.
The deep-dug ditch they cross'd, and sat them down
Upon an open space, from corpses clear ; 221
Where Hector from the slaughter of the Greeks
Turn'd back, when Ev'ning spread her veil around :
There sat they down, and there the conf'rence held.
Gerenian Nestor first took up the word : 225
“ O friends ! is any here with heart so bold
Who dares, self-confident, the Trojan camp
To enter ? there some straggler he might take,
Or in the camp itself some tidings gain,
What are their secret counsels ; if they mean 230
Here by the ships to hold their ground, or back,
Sated with vict'ry, to the town retire.
This could he learn, and hither scatheless bring
His tidings, high as Heav'n in all men's mouths
Would be his praise, and ample his reward. 235
For ev'ry captain of a ship should give
A coal-black ewe, and at her foot a lamb,

A prize beyond compare ; and high should be
His place at banquets and at solemn feasts."

He said ; but all the chiefs in silence heard ; 240
Then rose the valiant Diomed, and said :
" Nestor, that heart is mine ; I dare alone
Enter the hostile camp, so close at hand ;
Yet were one comrade giv'n me, I should go
With more of comfort, more of confidence. 245
Where two combine, one before other sees
The better course ; and ev'n though one alone
The readiest way discover, yet would be
His judgment slower, his decision less."

He said, and many chiefs to Diomed 250
Proffer'd companionship ; stood forth at once,
With him to penetrate the Trojan camp,
The two Ajaces, ministers of Mars ;
Stood forth Meriones, and eagerly
Stood forth the son of Nestor ; Atreus' son, 255
The royal Meneläus, spearman bold,
And stout Ulysses, whose enduring heart
For ev'ry deed of valour was prepar'd.
Rose Agamemnon, King of men, and said :

“Tydides, comrade dearest to my soul, 260
Choose thou thine own companion, whom thou wilt ;
Of all the many here that proffer aid
Him whom thou deem'st the best ; nor from respect
To persons leave the better man behind,
And take the worse ; nor def'rence show to rank, 265
Not though the purest royal blood were his.”

In fear for Menelæus thus he spoke :
Then answer'd valiant Diomed, and said ;
“ If my companion I may freely choose,
How can I pass the sage Ulysses by ? 270
Of ready wit, and dauntless courage, prov'd
In ev'ry danger ; and to Pallas dear.
I should not fear, by him accompanied,
To pass through fire, and safely both return ;
So far in prudence he surpasses all.” 275

Whom answer'd thus Ulysses, stout of heart :
 “ Tydides, nor exaggerated praise
 Bestow on me, nor censure ; for thou speak'st
 To those who know me all for what I am.
 But go we ; night wanes fast, the morn is near : 280
 The stars are high in Heav'n ; and of the night

Two thirds are spent, one third alone remains."

He said ; and both prepar'd to don their arms.

The youthful warrior Thrasymedes gave

X To Diomed a two-edg'd sword (his own 285

Had in the ship been left) and ample shield ;

Then on his brows a leathern headpiece plac'd,

Without or peak or plume ; a simple casque,

Such as is worn by youths to guard their head.

A bow, and well-fill'd quiver, and a sword, 290

Meriones to sage Ulysses gave ;

And on his brows a leathern headpiece plac'd,

Well wrought within, with num'rous straps secur'd,

And on th' outside, with wild boars' gleaming tusks

Profusely garnish'd, scatter'd here and there 295

By skilful hand ; the midst with felt was lin'd ;

This from Amyntor, son of Ormenus,

Autolycus from Eleon bore away,

Spoil of his pillag'd house ; Autolycus

Gave to Amphidamas, Cytheran chief, 300

Who in Scandea dwelt ; Amphidamas

To Molus, pledge of friendship ; he again

Gave to his son, Meriones, from whom

It now encircled sage Ulysses' brow.

Thus with accoutrements and arms supplied, 305

They left their brother chiefs, and took their way.

Then close beside their path, by Pallas sent,

Rose, on the right, a heron ; through the gloom

They saw it not indeed, but heard the cry.

The fav'ring sign with joy Ulysses hail'd, 310

And thus to Pallas pray'd : " Hear me, thou child

Of ægis-bearing Jove, who still hast stood

In ev'ry peril at my side, whose eye

My ev'ry movement sees ; now, Goddess, now

Befriend me ; grant that safe, with triumph crown'd,

We may return, some great exploit achiev'd, 316

Such as the Trojans long may bear in mind."

Him following, thus the brave Tydides pray'd :

" My voice too, child of Jove, undaunted, hear ;

And be with me, as with my father erst, 320

The godlike Tydeus, when to Thebes he went,

An envoy, in advance ; and left behind,

Upon Asopus' banks the mail-clad Greeks.

Smooth was the message which to Thebes he bore ;

But great, his mission ended, were the deeds 325

That with thine aid he wrought ; for, Goddess, thou
Wast with him, and thine arm was his defence :

So be thou now with me, and me defend.

Then on thine altar will I sacrifice

A yearling heifer, broad of brow, untam'd, 330

Whereon no yoke hath mortal ever laid :

Her will I give, and tip her horns with gold."

Thus as they pray'd, their pray'r the Goddess heard ;

Then, their devotions ended, on they far'd

Through the deep dead of night, like lions twain, 335

'Mid slaughter, corpses, arms, and blacken'd gore.

Nor, in the Trojan camp, did Hector leave

The chiefs to rest ; but all to conf'rence call'd,

The leaders and the councillors of Troy ;

To whom his prudent speech he thus address'd : 340

" Who is there here, that for a rich reward

A noble work will undertake ? A car

And two strong-collar'd horses, best of all

That can be found within the Grecian lines,

Shall he receive, who, to his endless praise, 345

Shall dare approach the ships ; and learn if still

They keep their wonted watch, or, by our arms

Subdued and vanquish'd, meditate retreat,
And, worn with toil, the nightly watch neglect."
Thus Hector spoke; but all in silence heard. 350

There was one Dolon in the Trojan camp,
The herald's son, Eumedes; rich in gold
And brass; not fair of face, but swift of foot;
Amid five sisters he the only son;
Who thus to Hector and the Trojans spoke: 355

"Hector, with dauntless courage I will dare
Approach the ships, and bring thee tidings sure;
But hold thou forth thy royal staff, and swear
That I the horses and the brass-bound car
Shall have, the boast of Peleus' matchless son: 360
Not vain shall be my errand, nor deceive
Thy hopes; right through the camp I mean to pass
To Agamemnon's tent, where all the chiefs
Debate in council, or to fight or fly."

He said; and Hector took his royal staff, 365
And swore to him: "Be witness Jove himself,
The Lord of thunder, that no Trojan man,
Thyself except, shall e'er those horses drive;
For thee they are reserv'd, a glorious prize."

Thus Hector swore ; though unfulfill'd the oath,
The hope to Dolon fresh assurance gave. 371

Forthwith, his bow across his shoulders slung,
A grisly wolf-skin o'er it, on his head
A cap of marten's fur, and in his hand
A jav'lin, from the camp he took his way, 375
Straight to the Grecian ships ; but never thence
Destin'd to bring th' expected tidings back.

The crowd of men and horses left behind,
Briskly he mov'd along ; Ulysses first
Mark'd his approach, and to Tydides said : 380

“ See, from the camp where some one this way comes,
With what intent I know not ; if to play
The spy about the ships, or rob the dead.
Turn we aside, and let him pass us by
A little way ; we then with sudden rush 385
May seize him ; or if he outstrip us both
By speed of foot, may urge him tow'rd the ships,
Driving him still before us with our spears,
And from the city cutting off his flight.”

Thus saying, 'mid the dead, beside the road 390
They crouch'd ; he, all unconscious, hasten'd by.

But when such space was interpos'd as leave
Between the sluggish oxen and themselves*
A team of mules (so much the faster they
Through the stiff fallow drag the jointed plough), 395
They rush'd upon him ; at the sound he stopp'd,
Deeming that from the Trojan camp they came,
By Hector sent, to order his return.
Within a spear's length when they came, or less,
For foes he knew them, and to flight address'd 400
His active limbs ; they rush'd in hot pursuit.
And as two hounds, well practis'd in the chase,
With glist'ning fangs, unflagging, strain to catch,
In woodland glade, some pricket deer, or hare,
That flies before them, screaming ; so those two, 405
Tydides and Ulysses, stout of heart,
With fiery zeal, unflagging, strain'd to catch
The flying Dolon, from the camp cut off ;
But when the fugitive approach'd the ships,
Close by the guard, fresh vigour Pallas gave 410

* This comparison does not afford a very accurate criterion of the "space interposed ;" which cannot be estimated without knowing the total distance within which the faster was to outstrip the slower team.

To Diomed, lest haply from the walls
Some other might anticipate his blow,
And he himself but second honours gain.
Tydides then with threat'ning gesture cried,
“ Stop, or I hurl my spear; and small thy chance, 415
If I assail thee, of escape from death.”

He said, and threw his spear; but by design
It struck him not; above his shoulder flew
The polish'd lance, and quiver'd in the ground.
Sudden he stopp'd, with panic paralys'd : 420

His teeth all chatt'ring, pale with fear he stood,
With falt'ring accents; panting, they came up
And seiz'd him in their grasp; he thus, in tears :
“ Spare but my life; my life I can redeem ;
For ample stores I have of gold, and brass, 425
And well-wrought iron; and of these my sire
Would pay a gen'rous ransom, could he learn
That in the Grecian ships I yet surviv'd.”

To whom Ulysses, deep-designing, thus :
“ Be of good cheer; nor let the fear of death 430
Disturb thy mind; but tell me truly this;
How is 't that tow'rd the ships thou com'st alone,

In the still night, when other mortals sleep ?
Com'st thou perchance for plunder of the dead ?
Or seek'st upon our ships to play the spy, 435
By Hector sent ? or of thine own accord ?”

Then Dolon thus—his knees with terror shook—
“ With much persuasion, of my better mind
Hector beguil'd me, off'ring as my prize
Achilles' horses and his brass-bound car ; 440
Through the dark night he sent me, and enjoin'd,
Ent'ring your hostile camp, to learn if still
Ye keep your wonted watch, or by our arms
Subdued and vanquish'd, meditate retreat,
And worn with toil, your nightly watch neglect.” 445

To whom Ulysses thus with scornful smile :
“ High soar'd thy hopes indeed, that thought to win
The horses of Achilles ; hard are they
For mortal man to harness or control,
Save for Achilles' self, the Goddess-born. 450
But tell me truly this ; when here thou cam'st,
Where left'st thou Hector, guardian chief of Troy ?
Where are his warlike arms ? his horses where ?
Where lie the rest ? and where are plac'd their guards ?

What are their secret counsels ? do they mean 455
Here by the ships to keep their ground, or back,
Sated with vict'ry, to the town return ?”

Whom Dolon answer'd thus, Eumedes' son :
“ Thy questions all true answers shall receive ;
Hector, with those who share his counsels, sits 460
In conf'rence, far apart, near Ilus' tomb ;
But for the guards thou speak'st of, noble chief,
Not one is station'd to protect the camp.
Around the Trojan fires indeed, perforce,
A watch is kept ; and they, among themselves, 465
Due caution exercise : but, for th' Allies,
They sleep, and to the Trojans leave the watch,
Since nor their children nor their wives are near.”

To whom in answer sage Ulysses thus :
“ Say now, where sleep they ? with the Trojans mix'd,
Or separate ? explain, that I may know.” 471

Whom answer'd Dolon thus, Eumedes' son :
“ To this too will I give ye answer true ;
Next to the sea the Carian forces lie ;
The Pæon archers and the Leleges, 475
The Caucons, and the bold Pelasgians next ;

On Thymbra's side the Lycians' lot has fall'n,
The Mysians brave, the Phrygian cavalry,
And the Mæonians with their horsehair plumes.
But why of these enquire ? if ye intend 480
An inroad on the camp, apart from all,
New come, the farthest off, the Thracians lie :
Rhesus their King, the son of Eioneus,
Sleeps in the midst ; no steeds that e'er I saw
For size and beauty can with his compare : 485
Whiter than snow, and swifter than the wind.
With gold and silver is his chariot wrought,
His armour golden, of gigantic size,
A marvel to behold ! it seems not meet
For mortal man, but for th' immortal Gods. 490
But take me now in safety to the ships ;
Or leave me here in fetters bound, that so,
Ere ye return, ye may approve my words,
And see if I have told you true, or no."

To whom thus Diomed with stern regard : 495
"Dolon, though good thy tidings, hope not thou,
Once in our hands, to 'scape the doom of death ;
For if we now should let thee go, again

In after times thou mightst our ships approach,
As secret spy, or open enemy : 500

But if beneath my hands thou lose thy life,
No farther trouble shalt thou cause the Greeks."
He said ; and as the suppliant sought in vain
To touch his beard, imploring, through his throat,
Both tendons sev'ring, drove his trenchant blade : 505
Ev'n while he spoke, his head was roll'd in dust.

The cap of marten fur from off his head
They took, the wolf-skin, and the bow unstrung,
And jav'lin ; these Ulysses held aloft,
And thus to Pallas pray'd, who gave the spoil : 510
"Receive, great Goddess, these our gifts ; to thee,
Of all th' Immortals on Olympus' height,
Our off'rings first we give ; conduct us now,
The Thracian camp and Thracian steeds to gain."

Thus as he spoke, amid the tamarisk scrub 515
Far off he threw the trophies ; then with reeds,
And twigs new broken from the tamarisk boughs,
He set a mark, lest in the gloom of night
Returning, they might haply miss the spot.
Then on they pass'd thro' arms and blacken'd gore, 520

And reach'd the confines of the Thracian camp.
There found they all by sleep subdued ; their arms
Beside them on the ground, in order due,
In triple rows ; and by the side of each,
Harness'd and yok'd, his horses ready stood. 525
Surrounded by his warriors, Rhesus slept ;
Beside him stood his coursers fleet, their reins
Suspended to the chariot's topmost rail :
Ulysses mark'd him as he lay, and said,
“ This is the man, Tydides, these the steeds, 530
To us by Dolon, whom we slew, describ'd.
Now then, put forth thy might ; beseems it not
To stand thus idly with thine arms in hand :
Loose thou the horses ; or do thou the men
Despatch, and to my care the horses leave.” 535

He said : and Pallas vigour new inspir'd,
That right and left he smote ; dire were the groans
Of slaughter'd men ; the earth was red with blood ;
And as a lion on th' untended flock
Of sheep or goats with savage onslaught springs, 540
Ev'n so Tydides on the Thracians sprang,
Till twelve were slain ; and as Tydides' sword

Gave each to death, Ulysses by the feet
Drew each aside ; reflecting, that perchance
The horses, startled, might refuse to pass 545
The corpses ; for as yet they knew them not.
But when Tydides saw the sleeping King,
A thirteenth victim to his sword was giv'n,
Painfully breathing ; for by Pallas' art,
He saw that night, as in an evil dream, 550
The son of Æneus standing o'er his head.
Meanwhile Ulysses sage the horses loos'd ;
He gather'd up the reins, and with his bow
(For whip was none at hand) he drove them forth ;
Then softly whistling to Tydides gave 555
A signal ; he, the while, remain'd behind,
Musing what bolder deed he yet might do ;
Whether the seat, whereon the arms were laid,
To draw away, or, lifted high in air,
To bear it off in triumph on the car ; 560
Or on the Thracians farther loss inflict ;
But while he mus'd, beside him Pallas stood,
And said, " Bethink thee, Tydeus' son, betimes
Of thy return, lest, if some other God

Should wake the Trojans, thou shouldst need to fly."

She said ; the heav'nly voice he recogniz'd, 566

And mounted straight the car ; Ulysses touch'd

The horses with his bow ; and, urg'd to speed,

They tow'rd the ships their rapid course pursued.

Nor idle watch Apollo kept, who saw 570

Tydides o'er the plain by Pallas led ;

With anger fill'd, the Trojan camp he sought ;

And Rhesus' kinsman, good Hippocöon,

The Thracian counsellor, from sleep arous'd ;

Awaking, when the vacant space he view'd, 575

Where late had stood the horses ; and his friends

Gasping in death, and welt'ring in their blood,

He groan'd as on his comrade's name he call'd :

Then loud the clamour rose, and wild uproar,

Unspeakable, of Trojans thronging round ; 580

They marvell'd at the deeds ; but marvell'd more

How they who wrought them had escap'd unscath'd.

Meantime arriv'd where Hector's scout they slew,

Ulysses, lov'd of Heav'n, a moment check'd

His eager steeds ; Tydides from the car 585

Leap'd to the ground, and in Ulysses' hand

The bloody trophies plac'd ; then mounted quick,
And tow'rd the ships, their destin'd goal, urg'd on
The fiery horses ; nothing loth, they flew.
Nestor first heard the sound, and cried, " O friends,
The leaders and the councillors of Greece, 591
Am I deceiv'd, or is it true ? methinks
The sound of horses, hurrying, strikes mine ear ;
Grant Heav'n, Ulysses and brave Diomed
May bring those horses from the Trojan camp ; 595
Yet much I fear our bravest may have met
With some disaster 'mid the crowd of foes."

He scarce had ended, when themselves appear'd,
And from the car descended : welcom'd back
With cordial grasp of hands, and friendly words. 600
Gerenian Nestor first, enquiring, said :
" Tell me, renown'd Ulysses, pride of Greece,
Whence come these horses ? from the Trojan camp ?
Or hath some God, that met you by the way,
Bestow'd them, radiant as the beams of light ? 605
Among the Trojans day by day I move ;
'Tis not my wont, old warrior though I be,
To lag behind ; but horses such as these

I never saw ; some God hath giv'n them, sure ;
For Jove, the Cloud-compeller, loves you both, 610
And Pallas, child of ægis-bearing Jove."

To whom again the sage Ulysses thus :
" O Nestor, son of Neleus, pride of Greece,
Had they so will'd, the Gods, so great their pow'r,
E'en better horses could have giv'n than these ; 615
But these, old man, are Thracians, newly come ;
Whose King the valiant Diomed hath slain,
And with him twelve, the best of all his band.
A scout too have we slain, by Hector sent,
And by the Trojan chiefs, to spy our camp." 620

He said, and o'er the ditch the horses drove,
Exulting in their prize ; and with him went
The other chiefs, rejoicing, through the camp.
Arriv'd at Diomed's well-order'd tent,
First with strong halters to the rack, where stood, 625
High-fed with corn, his own swift-footed steeds,
The horses they secur'd ; Ulysses then
The bloody spoils of Dolon stow'd away
In the ship's stern, till fitting sacrifice
To Pallas might be offer'd ; to the sea 630

Descending then, they wash'd away the sweat,
Which on their necks, and thighs, and knees had dried :
The sweat wash'd off, and in the ocean waves
Themselves refresh'd, they sought the polish'd bath ;
Then, by the bath restor'd, and all their limbs 635
Anointed freely with the lissom oil,
Sat down to breakfast ; and from flowing bowls
In Pallas' honour pour'd the luscious wine. 638

ARGUMENT.

THE THIRD BATTLE, AND THE ACTS OF AGAMEMNON.

Agamemnon, having armed himself, leads the Grecians to battle. Hector prepares the Trojans to receive them; while Jupiter, Juno, and Minerva, give the signals of war. Agamemnon bears all before him; and Hector is commanded by Jupiter (who sends Iris for that purpose) to decline the engagement, till the king should be wounded, and retire from the field. He then makes a great slaughter of the enemy; Ulysses and Diomed put a stop to him for a time; but the latter, being wounded by Paris, is obliged to desert his companion, who is encompassed by the Trojans, wounded, and in the utmost danger, till Menelaüs and Ajax rescue him. Hector comes against Ajax, but that hero alone opposes multitudes and rallies the Greeks. In the meantime Machaon, in the other wing of the army, is pierced with an arrow by Paris, and carried from the fight in Nestor's chariot. Achilles (who overlooked the action from his ship) sends Patroclus to inquire which of the Greeks was wounded in that manner. Nestor entertains him in his tent with an account of the accidents of the day, and a long recital of some former wars which he had remembered, tending to put Patroclus upon persuading Achilles to fight for his countrymen, or at least to permit him to do it clad in Achilles' armour. Patroclus in his return meets Eurypylus also wounded, and assists in that distress.

This book opens with the eight-and-twentieth day of the poem; and the same day, with its various actions and adventures, is extended through the twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth, sixteenth, seventeenth, and part of the eighteenth books. The scene lies in the field near the monument of Ilus.

BOOK XI.

NOW rose Aurora from Tithonus' bed,
To mortals and Immortals bringing light ;
When to the ships of Greece came Discord down,
Despatch'd from Jove, with dire portents of war.
Upon Ulysses' lofty ship she stood, 5
The midmost, thence to shout to either side,
Or to the tents of Ajax Telamon,
Or of Achilles, who at each extreme,
Confiding in their strength, had moor'd their ships.
There stood the Goddess, and in accents loud 10
And dread she call'd, and fix'd in ev'ry breast
The fierce resolve to wage unwearied war ;
And dearer to their hearts than thoughts of home
Or wish'd return, became the battle-field.

Atrides, loudly shouting, call'd the Greeks 15
To arms : himself his flashing armour donn'd.
First on his legs the well-wrought greaves he fix'd,

Fasten'd with silver clasps ; his ample chest
A breastplate guarded, giv'n by Cinyras
In pledge of friendship ; for in Cyprus' isle 20
He heard the rumour of the glorious fleet
About to sail for Troy ; and sought with gifts
To win the favour of the mighty King.
Ten bands were there inwrought of dusky bronze,
Twelve of pure gold, twice ten of shining tin : 25
Of bronze six dragons upwards tow'rd the neck
Their length extended, three on either side :
In colour like the bow, which Saturn's son
Plac'd in the clouds, a sign to mortal men :
Then o'er his shoulder threw his sword ; bright flash'd
The golden studs ; the silver scabbard shone, 31
With golden baldrick fitted ; next his shield
He took, full-siz'd, well-wrought, well-prov'd in fight ;
Around it ran ten circling rims of brass ;
With twenty bosses round of burnish'd tin, 35
And, in the centre, one of dusky bronze.
A Gorgon's head, with aspect terrible,
Was wrought, with Fear and Flight encircled round :
Depending from a silver belt it hung ;

And on the belt a dragon, wrought in bronze, 40
Twin'd his lithe folds, and turn'd on ev'ry side,
Sprung from a single neck, his triple head.

Then on his brow his lofty helm he plac'd,
Four-crested, double-peak'd, with 'horsehair plumes,
That nodded, fearful, from the warrior's head. 45
Then took two weighty lances, tipp'd with brass,
Which fiercely flash'd against the face of Heav'n :
Pallas and Juno thund'ring from on high
In honour of Mycenæ's wealthy lord.

Forthwith they order'd, each his charioteer, 50
To stay his car beside the ditch ; themselves,
On foot, in arms accoutred, sallied forth,
And loud, ere early dawn, the clamour rose.
Advanc'd before the cars, they lin'd the ditch ;
Follow'd the cars, a little space between : 55
But Jove with dire confusion fill'd their ranks,
Who sent from Heav'n a show'r of blood-stain'd rain,
In sign of many a warrior's coming doom,
Soon to the viewless shades untimely sent.
Meanwhile upon the slope, beneath the plain, 60
The Trojan chiefs were gather'd ; Hector's self,

Polydamas, Æneas, as a God

In rev'rence held ; Antenor's three brave sons,

Agenor's godlike presence, Polybus,

And, heav'nly fair, the youthful Acamas. 65

In front was seen the broad circumference

Of Hector's shield ; and as amid the clouds

Shines forth the fiery dog-star, bright and clear,

Anon beneath the cloudy veil conceal'd ;

So now in front was Hector seen, and now 70

Pass'd to the rear, exhorting ; all in brass,

His burnish'd arms like Jove's own lightning flash'd.

As in the corn-land of some wealthy Lord

The rival bands of reapers mow the swathe,

Barley or wheat ; and fast the trusses fall ; 75

So Greeks and Trojans mow'd th' opposing ranks ;

Nor these admitted thought of faint retreat,

But still made even head ; while those, like wolves,

Rush'd to the onset ; Discord, Goddess dire,

Beheld, rejoicing ; of the heav'nly pow'rs 80

She only mingled with the combatants ;

The others all were absent ; they, serene,

Repos'd in gorgeous palaces, for each

Amid Olympus' deep recesses built.

Yet all the cloud-girt son of Saturn blam'd, 85

Who will'd the vict'ry to the arms of Troy.

He heeded not their anger ; but withdrawn

Apart from all, in pride of conscious strength,

Survey'd the walls of Troy, the ships of Greece,

The flash of arms, the slayers and the slain. 90

While yet 'twas morn, and wax'd the youthful day,

Thick flew the shafts, and fast the people fell

On either side ; but when the hour was come

When woodmen, in the forest's deep recess,

Prepare their food, and wearied with the toil 95

Of felling loftiest trees, with aching arms

Turn with keen relish to their midday meal ;

Then Grecian valour broke th' opposing ranks,

As each along the line encourag'd each ;

First sprang the monarch Agamemnon forth, 100

And brave Bienor slew, his people's guard ;

And, with the chief, his friend and charioteer,

Oileus ; he, down-leaping from the car,

Stood forth defiant ; but between his brows

The monarch's spear was thrust ; nor aught avail'd 105

The brass-bound helm to stay the weapon's point ;
Through helm and bone it pass'd, and all the brain
Was shatter'd ; forward as he rush'd, he fell.

Them left he there, their bare breasts gleaming white,
Stripp'd of their arms; and hasten'd in pursuit 110

Of Antiphus and Isus, Priam's sons,

A bastard one, and one legitimate,

Both on one car ; the bastard held the reins :

Beside him stood the gallant Antiphus.

Them, as they fed their flocks on Ida's heights, 115

Achilles once had captive made, and bound

With willow saplings, till for ransom freed.

The mighty monarch, Agamemnon, drove

Through Isus' breast his spear ; his weighty sword

Descended on the head of Antiphus 120

Beside the ear, and hurl'd him from his car ;

These of their armour he despoil'd in haste,

Known to him both ; for he had seen them oft

Beside the ships, when thither captive brought

From Ida by Achilles, swift of foot. 125

As when a lion in their lair hath seiz'd

The helpless offspring of a mountain doe,

And breaks their bones with ease, and with strong teeth
Crushes their tender life ; nor can their dam,
Though close at hand she be, avail them aught ; 130
For she herself by deadly terror seiz'd,

Through the thick coppice and the forest flies,
Panting, and bath'd in sweat, the monster's rush ;
So dar'd no Trojan give those brethren aid,
Themselves in terror of the warlike Greeks. 135

Peisander next, and bold Hippolochus,
Sons of Antimachus ('twas he who chief,
Seduc'd by Paris' gold and splendid gifts,
Advis'd the restitution to refuse
Of Helen to her Lord), the King assail'd ; 140

Both on one car ; but from their hands had dropp'd
The broider'd reins ; bewilder'd there they stood ;
While, with a lion's bound, upon them sprang
The son of Atreus ; suppliant, in the car,
They clasp'd his knees ; " Give quarter, Atreus' son,
Redeem our lives ; our sire Antimachus 146

Possesses goodly store of brass and gold,
And well-wrought iron ; and of these he fain
Would pay a noble ransom, could he hear

That in the Grecian ships we yet surviv'd." 150

Thus they, with gentle words, and tears, imploring ;

But all ungentle was the voice they heard

In answer ; " If indeed ye be the sons

Of that Antimachus, who counsel gave,

When noble Meneläus came to Troy 155

With sage Ulysses, as ambassadors,

To slay them both, nor suffer their return,

Pay now the forfeit of your father's guilt."

He said, and with a spear-thrust through his breast

Peisander dash'd to earth ; backward he fell. 160

Down leap'd Hippolochus ; but Atreus' son

Severing his hands and neck, amid the throng

Sent whirling like a bowl the gory head.

These left he there ; and where the thickest throng

Maintain'd the tug of war, thither he flew, 165

And with him eager hosts of well-greav'd Greeks.

Soon on the Trojans' flight enforc'd they hung,

Destroying ; foot on foot, and horse on horse ;

While from the plain thick clouds of dust arose

Beneath the armèd hoofs of clatt'ring steeds ; 170

And on the monarch Agamemnon press'd,

Still slaying, urging still the Greeks to arms.

As when amid a densely timber'd wood

Light the devouring flames, by eddy winds

Hither and thither borne, fast falls the copse 175

Prostrate beneath the fire's impetuous course ;

So thickly fell the flying Trojans' heads

Beneath the might of Agamemnon's arm ;

And here and there, athwart the pass of war,

Was many an empty car at random whirl'd 180

By strong-neck'd steeds, of guiding hands bereft ;

Stretch'd on the plain they lay, more welcome sight

To carrion birds than to their widow'd wives.

But Hector, from the fray and din of war,

And dust, and blood, and carnage, Jove withdrew.

Still on Atrides press'd, the Greek pursuit 186

With eager shouts exciting ; past the tomb

Of Ilus, ancient son of Dardanus,

And tow'rd the fig-tree, midway o'er the plain,

Straining to gain the town, the Trojans fled ; 190

While loudly shouting, his unconquer'd hands

With carnage dyed, Atrides urg'd their flight.

But when the Scæan gates and oak were reach'd,

They made a stand, and fac'd the foe's assault.
Some o'er the open plain were yet dispers'd ; 195
As heifers, by a lion scatter'd wide,
At dead of night ; all fly ; on one descends
The doom of death ; her with his pow'rful teeth
He seizes, and, her neck first broken, rends,
And on her entrails gorging, laps her blood. 200
So these the monarch Agamemnon chas'd,
Slaying the hindmost ; they in terror fled :
Some headlong, backward some, Atrides' hand
Hurl'd from their chariot many a warrior bold ;
So forward and so fierce he bore his spear. 205
But as he near'd the city, and stood beneath
The lofty wall, the Sire of Gods and men
From Heav'n descended ; on the topmost height
Of Ida's spring-abounding hill he sat :
And while his hand the lightning grasp'd, he thus 210
To golden-wingèd Iris gave command :

“ Haste thee, swift Iris, and to Hector bear
From me this message ; bid him, that as long
As Agamemnon in the van appears,
Raging, and dealing death among the ranks, 215

He from the battle keep himself aloof,
But urge the rest undaunted to maintain
The stubborn fight ; but should Atrides, struck
By spear or arrow, to his car withdraw,
He shall from me receive such pow'r to slay, 220
As to the ships shall bear him, ere the sun
Decline, and Darkness spread her hallowing shade."

Thus he ; to Troy, obedient to his word,
From Ida's heights swift-footed Iris sped :
Amid the horses and the well-fram'd cars 225
The godlike Hector, Priam's son, she found,
And stood beside him, and address'd him thus :

"Hector, thou son of Priam, sage as Jove
In council, he the Universal Lord
Sends thee by me this message ; that as long 230
As Agamemnon in the van appears,
Raging, and dealing death amid the ranks,
Thou from the battle keep thyself aloof,
But urge the rest undaunted to maintain
The stubborn fight ; but should Atrides, struck 235
By spear or arrow, to his car withdraw,
Thou shalt from him receive such pow'r to slay

As to the ships shall bear thee, ere the sun
Decline, and Darkness spread her hallowing shade."

Swift-footed Iris said, and disappear'd ; 240

But from his chariot Hector leap'd to earth,
Hither and thither passing through the ranks,
With brandish'd jav'lins urging to the fight.

Loud, at his bidding, rose the battle-cry ;

Back roll'd the tide ; again they fac'd the Greeks : 245

On th' other side the Greeks their masses form'd,

In line of battle rang'd ; opposed they stood ;

And in the front, to none content to cede

The foremost place, was Agamemnon seen.

Say now, ye Nine, who on Olympus dwell, 250

Of all the Trojans and their fam'd Allies,

Who first oppos'd to Agamemnon stood.

Iphidamas, Antenor's gallant son,

Stalwart and brave ; in fertile Thracia bred,

Mother of flocks ; him, in his infant years, 255

His grandsire Cisseus, fair Theano's sire,

In his own palace rear'd ; and when he reach'd

The perfect measure of his glorious youth,

Still in his house retain'd him, and to wife

Gave him his daughter ; but when tidings came 260
Of Grecian warfare, from the marriage straight
Embarking, with twelve beakèd ships he sailed,
That owned his sway ; these on Percote's shore
He left ; and came himself on foot to Troy ;
Who now confronted Atreus' godlike son. 265

When near they drew, Atrides miss'd his aim,
His spear diverging ; then Iphidamas
Beneath the breastplate, striking on his belt,
Strove with strong hand to drive the weapon home :
Yet could not pierce the belt's close-plaited work ; 270
The point, encounter'd by the silver fold,
Was bent, like lead ; then with his pow'rful hand
The monarch Agamemnon seiz'd the spear,
And tow'rd him drew, and with a lion's strength
Wrench'd from his foeman's grasp ; then on his neck
Let fall his sword, and slack'd his limbs in death. 276
There, falling in his country's cause, he slept
The iron sleep of death ; unhappy he,
Far from his virgin-bride, yet unpossess'd,
Though bought with costly presents ; first he gave 280
A hundred steers ; and promis'd thousands more

Of sheep and goats from out his countless flocks.
Him Agamemnon of his arms despoil'd,
And to the crowd of Greeks the trophies bore.
But when Antenor's eldest-born beheld, 285
Cöon, th' observ'd of all men, bitt'rest grief
His eyes o'ershow'd, for his brother's fate ;
And, unperceiv'd by Atreus' godlike son,
Standing aside, he struck him with his spear,
Through the mid arm, beneath the elbow's bend ; 290
And drove right through the weapon's glitt'ring point.
Writh'd with the pain the mighty King of men ;
Yet from the combat flinch'd he not, nor quail'd :
But grasping firm his weather-toughen'd spear
On Cöon rush'd, as by the feet he drew 295
His father's son, Iphidamas, away,
Invoking all the bravest to his aid ;
And as he drew the body tow'rd the crowd,
Beneath the bossy shield the monarch thrust
His brass-clad spear, and slack'd his limbs in death ;
Then near approaching, ev'n upon the corpse 301
Of dead Iphidamas, struck off his head :
So by Atrides' hand, Antenor's sons,

Their doom accomplish'd, to the shades were sent.
Then through the crowded ranks, with spear and sword,
And massive stones, he held his furious course, 306
While the hot blood was welling from his arm ;
But when the wound was dry, and stanch'd the blood,
Keen anguish then Atrides' might subdued.

As when a woman in her labour-throes 310

Sharp pangs encompass, by Lucina sent,
Who rules o'er child-birth travail, ev'n so keen
The pangs that then Atrides' might subdued.

Mounting his car he bade his charioteer

Drive to the ships ; for sore his spirit was pain'd ; 315

But loud and clear he shouted to the Greeks :

“ O friends, the chiefs and councillors of Greece,

Yours be it now our sea-borne ships to guard :

Since Jove, the Lord of counsel, through the day

Wills not that I the battle should maintain." 320

He said : and swiftly to the ships were driv'n
His sleek-skin'd coursers ; nothing loth they flew ;
With foam their chests were fleck'd, with dust their
flanks,

As from the field their wounded Lord they bore:

But Hector, as he saw the King retire, 325
To Trojans and to Lycians call'd aloud :

“ Trojans and Lycians, and ye Dardans fam'd
In close encounter, quit ye now like men ;
Put forth your wonted valour ; from the field
Their bravest has withdrawn, and Jove on me 330
Great glory hath shed ; now headlong on the Greeks
Urge your swift steeds, and endless honour gain.”

His words fresh courage rous'd in ev'ry breast :
And as a hunter cheers his sharp-fang'd hounds
On forest boar or lion ; on the Greeks 335
So cheer'd the valiant Trojans Priam's son,
Illustrious Hector, stern as blood-stain'd Mars.
Bent on high deeds, himself in front advanc'd,
Fell on the masses as a whirlwind falls,
Lashing with furious sweep the dark-blue sea. 340

Say then, who first, who last, by Hector's hand,
Whom Jove had will'd to crown with honour, died.
Assæus first, and then Autonöus,
Opites, and Opheltius, Dolops, son
Of Clytus, and Æsumnus, Agelas 345
And Orus, and brave Hipponöus ;

All these the chiefs of Greece ; the nameless crowd
He scatter'd next ; as when the west wind drives
The clouds, and battles with the hurricane,
Before the clearing blast of Notus driv'n ; 350
The big waves heave and roll, and high aloft,
The gale, careering, flings the ocean spray ;
So thick and furious fell on hostile heads
The might of Hector. Now had fearful deeds
Been done, and Greeks beside their ships had fall'n
In shameful rout, had not Ulysses thus 356
To Diomed, the son of Tydeus, call'd :

“ Why, son of Tydeus, should we thus relax
Our warlike courage ? come, stand by me now,
True friend ! if Hector of the glancing helm 360
Our ships should capture, great were our disgrace.”

Whom answer'd thus the valiant Diomed :
“ Beside thee will I stand, and still endure ;
But brief will be the term of our success,
Since Jove, the Cloud-compeller, not to us, 365
But to the Trojans, wills the victory.”

He said, and from his car Thymbræus hurl'd,
Through the left breast transfix'd : Ulysses' hand

His charioteer, the brave Molion, slew.

These left they there, no more to share the fight ; 370

Then turning, spread confusion 'mid the crowd :

As turn two boars upon the hunter's pack

With desp'rate courage, turning so to bay,

Those two, the Trojans scatt'ring, gave the Greeks,

From Hector flying, time again to breathe. 375

A car they seiz'd which bore two valiant chiefs,

Sons of Percotian Merops ; he, o'er all

In lore prophetic skill'd, would fain at home

Have kept them from the life-destroying war :

But they, by adverse fate impell'd to seek 380

Their doom of death, his warning voice despis'd.

These two, of strength and life at once bereft,

The son of Tydeus, valiant Diomed,

Stripp'd of their armour ; while Ulysses slew

Hippodamus, and bold Hyperoehus. 385

Thus Jove, from Ida's height beholding, held

His even scale, each party slaught'ring each.

Then with his spear Tydides through the loins

Agastrophus, the son of Pæon, smote ;

No car had he at hand, whereto to fly : 390

But, ill-advis'd, had in th' attendants' charge
His horses left far off; while he himself
Rush'd 'mid the throng on foot, and met his doom.
Hector's quick glance athwart the files beheld,
And to the rescue, with a shout, he sprang, 395
The Trojan columns following; not unmov'd
The valiant Diomed his coming saw,
And thus bespoke Ulysses at his side :
“ On us this plague, this mighty Hector, falls :
Yet stand we firm, and boldly meet the shock.” 400
He said, and, poising, hurl'd his pond'rous spear,
And not in vain; on Hector's head it struck
His helmet's crest, but, brass encount'ring brass,
Himself it reach'd not; for the visor'd helm,
Apollo's gift, three-plated, stay'd its force. 405
Yet backward Hector sprang amid the crowd,
And on his knees he dropp'd, his stalwart hand
Propp'd on the ground; while darkness veil'd his eyes.
But ere Tydides, following up his spear,
Attain'd from far the spot whereon he fell, 410
Hector reviv'd, and mounting quick his car,
Drove 'mid the crowd, and 'scap'd the doom of death.

Then thus, with threat'ning spear, Tydides cried :
“ Yet once again, vile hound, hast thou escap'd ;
Thy doom was nigh ; but thee thy God hath sav'd, 415
Phœbus, to whom, amid the clash of spears,
Well mayst thou pray ! We yet shall meet again ;
When I shall end thee, if a guardian God
I too may claim ; meanwhile from thee I turn,
And others seek on whom my hap may light.” 420

He said, and turn'd him of his arms to strip
The son of Pæon ; but beside the stone
That mark'd where men of old had rais'd a mound
To Ilus, Dardan's son, the ancient chief,
There crouching, Paris, fair-hair'd Helen's Lord, 425
Against the son of Tydeus bent his bow.
He from the breast of brave Agastrophus
Had stripp'd the corslet ; from his shoulders broad ,
The buckler, and the helmet from his head,
When Paris bent his bow, and not in vain 430
His arrow launch'd ; Tydides' dexter foot
Right through it pierc'd, and pinn'd it to the ground.
Joyous he laugh'd, and from his hiding place
Sprang forth, and thus in tones of triumph cried :

“Thou hast it ! not in vain my shaft hath flown ! 435
Would that, deep buried in thy flank, it touch'd
Thy very life ! so should our Trojans lose
Their panic fear, who now on thee with dread,
As bleating goats upon a lion, look.”

To whom, unmov'd, the valiant Diomed : 440
“Poor archer, trusting to thy bow alone,
Vile sland'rer and seducer ! if indeed
Thou durst in arms oppos'd to me to stand,
Nought would avail thy arrows and thy bow :
And now, because thy shaft hath graz'd my foot, 445
Thou mak'st thine empty boast : I heed thee not,
More than a woman or a puny child :
A worthless coward's weapon hath no point.
'Tis diff'rent far with me ! though light it fall,
My spear is sharp, and whom it strikes, it slays. 450
His widow's cheeks are mark'd with scars of grief,
His children orphans ; rotting on the ground,
Red with his blood, he lies, his fun'ral rites
By carrion birds, and not by women paid.”

Thus while he spoke, Ulysses, spearman bold, 455
Drew near, and stood before him ; he, behind,

Sat down protected, and from out his foot
The arrow drew ; whereat sharp anguish shot
Through all his flesh ; and mounting on his ear
He bade his faithful charioteer in haste 460
Drive to the ships, for pain weigh'd down his soul.
Alone Ulysses stood ; of all the Greeks
Not one beside him ; all were panic-struck :
Then with his spirit, perturb'd, he commun'd thus :
“ Me miserable ! which way shall I choose ? 465
'Twere ill indeed that I should turn to flight
By hostile numbers daunted ; yet 'twere worse
Here to be caught alone ; and Saturn's son
With panic fear the other Greeks hath fill'd.
Yet why, my soul, admit such thoughts as these ? 470
I know that cowards from the battle fly ;
But he who boasts a warrior's name, must learn,
Wounded or wounding, firmly still to stand.”

While in his mind and spirit thus he mus'd,
Onward the buckler'd ranks of Trojans came, 475
And, to their harm, encircled him around.
As when a boar, by dogs and stalwart youths
Attack'd, the shelt'ring thicket leaves, and whets

The tusks that gleam between his curvèd jaws ;
They crowd around, though ring his clatt'ring tusks,
And, fearful though it be, await his rush : 481

So crowded round Ulysses, dear to Jove,
The Trojans ; he, with brandish'd spear aloft,
Sprang forth, and through the shoulder, from above,
Deiöpites wounded : Thöon next 485

He slew, and Ennomus ; then with his spear
Chersidamas, in act to quit his car,
Thrust through the loins below his bossy shield :
Prone in the dust, he clutch'd the blood-stain'd soil.
From these he turn'd ; and wounded with his spear
Charops, the high-born Socus' brother, son 491

Of Hippasus ; then forward sprang, to aid
His brother, godlike Socus ; close he stood
Before Ulysses, and address'd him thus :
“ Far-fam'd Ulysses, as in arms, in wiles 495

Unwearied, thou this day o'er both the sons
Of Hippasus, two mighty warriors slain,
And of their armour spoil'd, shalt make thy boast,
Or by my spear thyself shalt lose thy life.”

He said, and on the shield's broad circle struck : 500

Through the bright shield the sturdy weapon drove,
And through the rich-wrought baldrick, from the ribs
Tearing the flesh away ; but Pallas seiz'd,
And turn'd it from the vital parts aside.

The wound, Ulysses knew, was not to death, 505
And back he drew, and thus to Socus cried :

“ Ill-fated thou ! thy doom hath found thee now ;
Me hast thou hinder'd from the war awhile ;
But thee to swift destruction and dark death,
This day I doom : great glory, of thee subdued, 510
Shall I obtain, and Hades take thy soul.”

Thus he : and Socus, turning, sought to fly ;
But as he turn'd him round, Ulysses' spear
Behind his neck, between the shoulder blades
Was driv'n, and through his chest ; thund'ring he fell,
And o'er his fall Ulysses, vaunting, thus : 516

“ Socus, thou son of warlike Hippasus,
Here hast thou found, nor couldst escape, thy doom.
Ill-fated thou ! nor sire's nor mother's hand
Shall gather up thy bones, but carrion birds 520
O'er thee shall flap their baleful wings, and tear
Thy mangled flesh ; for me, whene'er I die

The sons of Greece will build my fun'ral pile."

From out his flesh, and from the bossy shield,

The spear of Socus, as he spoke, he drew ; 525

And as he drew it forth, out gush'd his blood,

With anguish keen. The Trojans, when they saw

Ulysses' blood, with clam'rous shouts advanc'd

Promiscuous ; he, retiring, shouted loud

To call his comrades ; loud as head of man 530

Could bear, he shouted thrice ; and thrice his shout

The warlike Meneläus heard, and thus

To Ajax, standing by his side, he spoke :

“ Ajax, thou Heav'n-born son of Telamon,

Great chief of men, methinks I hear the voice 535

Of stout Ulysses, as though left alone,

And in the stubborn fight cut off from aid,

By Trojans overmaster'd. Haste we then,

For so 'twere best, to give him present aid.

Brave though he be, yet left alone, I fear 540

Great cause we Greeks may have to mourn his loss."

He spoke, and led the way ; the godlike chief

Follow'd his steps : Ulysses, dear to Jove,

Surrounded by the Trojan host they found,

As hungry jackals on the mountain side 545
Around a stag, that from an archer's hand
Hath taken hurt, yet while his blood was warm
And limbs yet serv'd, has baffled his pursuit ;
But when the fatal shaft has drain'd his strength,
Thirsting for blood, beneath the forest shade, 550
The jackals seize their victim ; then if chance
A hungry lion pass, the jackals shrink
In terror back, while he devours the prey ;
So round Ulysses, sage in council, press'd
The Trojans, many and brave, yet nobly he 555
Averted, spear in hand, the fatal hour ;
Till, with his tow'r-like shield before him borne,
Appear'd great Ajax, and beside him stood.
Hither and thither then the Trojans fled ;
While with supporting arm from out the crowd 560
The warlike Menelæus led him forth,
Till his attendant with his car drew near.
Then Ajax, on the Trojans springing, slew
Doryelus, royal Priam's bastard son ;
Next Pyrasus he smote, and Pandocus, 565
Lysander, and Pylartes ; as a stream,

Swoll'n by the rains of Heav'n, that from the hills
Pours down its wintry torrent on the plain ;
And many a blighted oak, and many a pine
It bears, with piles of drift-wood, to the sea . 570
So swept illustrious Ajax o'er the plain,
O'erthrowing men and horses ; though unknown
To Hector ; he, upon Scamander's banks
Was warring on the field's extremest left,
Where round great Nestor and the warlike King 575
Idomeneus, while men were falling fast,
Rose, irrepressible, the battle cry.

Hector, 'mid these, was working wondrous deeds,
With spear and car, routing th' opposèd youth ;
Yet had the Greeks ev'n so their ground maintain'd,
But godlike Paris, fair-hair'd Helen's Lord, 581
Through the right shoulder, with a three-barb'd shaft,
As in the front he fought, Machaon quell'd :
For him the warrior Greeks were sore afraid
Lest he, as back the line of battle roll'd, 585
Might to the foe be left ; to Nestor then
Idomeneus address'd his speech, and said :

“ O Nestor, son of Neleus, pride of Greece,

Haste thee to mount thy car, and with thee take
Machaon ; tow'rd the vessels urge with speed 590
The flying steeds ; worth many a life is his,
The skilful leech, who knows, with practis'd hand,
T' extract the shaft, and healing drugs apply."

He said : Gerenian Nestor at the word
Mounted his car, Machaon at his side, 595
The skilful leech, sage *Æsculapius*' son :
He touch'd his horses ; tow'rd the Grecian ships,
As was his purpose, nothing loth, they flew.

To Hector then Cebriones, who saw
Confus'd the Trojans' right, drew near, and said : 600
" Hector, we here, on th' outskirts of the field,
O'erpow'r the Greeks ; on th' other side, our friends
In strange confusion mingled, horse and man,
Are driv'n ; among them Ajax spreads dismay,
The son of Telamon ; I know him well, 605
And the broad shield that o'er his shoulders hangs ;
Thither direct we then our car, where most
In mutual slaughter horse and foot engage,
And loudest swells, uncheck'd, the battle cry."

He said, and with the pliant lash he touch'd 610

The sleek-skin'd horses ; springing at the sound,
Between the Greeks and 'Trojans, light they bore
The flying car, o'er bodies of the slain
And broken bucklers trampling ; all beneath
Was plash'd with blood the axle, and the rails 615
Around the car, as from the horses' feet,
And from the felloes of the wheels, were thrown
The bloody gouts ; yet on he sped, to join
The strife of men, and break th' opposing ranks.
His coming spread confusion 'mid the Greeks, 620
His spear awhile withheld ; then through the rest,
With sword, and spear, and pond'rous stones he rush'd,
But shunn'd the might of Ajax Telamon.

But Jove, high thron'd, the soul of Ajax fill'd
With fear ; aghast he stood ; his sev'nfold shield 625
He threw behind his back, and, trembling, gaz'd
Upon the crowd ; then, like some beast of prey,
Foot slowly following foot, reluctant turn'd.
As when the rustic youths and dogs have driv'n
A tawny lion from the cattle fold, 630
Watching all night, and baulk'd him of his prey ;
Rav'ning for flesh, he still th' attempt renews,

But still in vain : for many a jav'lin, hurl'd
By vig'rous arms, confronts him to his face,
And blazing faggots, that his courage daunt ; 635
Till, with the dawn, reluctant he retreat :
So from before the Trojans Ajax turn'd,
Reluctant, fearing for the ships of Greece.
As near a field of corn, a stubborn ass,
Upon whose sides had many a club been broke, 640
O'erpow'rs his boyish guides, and ent'ring in,
On the rich forage grazes ; while the boys
Their cudgels ply, but vain their puny strength,
Yet drive him out, when fully fed, with ease :
Ev'n so great Ajax, son of Telamon, 645
The valiant Trojans and their fam'd Allies,
Still thrusting at his shield, before them drove :
Yet would he sometimes, rallying, hold in check
The Trojan host ; then turn again to flight,
Yet barring still the passage to the ships. 650
Midway between the Trojans and the Greeks
He stood defiant ; many jav'lins, hurl'd
By vig'rous arms, were in their flight receiv'd
On his broad shield ; and many, ere they reach'd

Their living mark, fell midway on the plain, 655
Fix'd in the ground, in vain athirst for blood.

Him thus, hard press'd by thick-thrown spears, beheld
Eurypylus, Enæmon's noble son.

He hasten'd up, and aim'd his glitt'ring spear ;
And Apisaon, Phausias' noble son, 660

Below the midriff through the liver struck,
And straight relax'd in sudden death his limbs.

Forth sprang Eurypylus to seize the spoils :
But godlike Paris saw, and as he stoop'd
From Apisaon's corpse to strip his arms, 665

Against Eurypylus he bent his bow,
And his right thigh transfix'd ; the injur'd limb
Disabling, in the wound the arrow broke.

He 'mid his friends, escaping death, withdrew,
And to the Greeks with piercing shout he call'd : 670

“ O friends, the chiefs and councillors of Greece,
Turn yet again, and from the doom of death
Great Ajax save, hard press'd by hostile spears :
Scarce can I hope he may escape with life
The desp'rate fight ; yet bravely stand, and aid 675
The mighty Ajax, son of Telamon.”

Thus spoke the wounded hero : round him they
With sloping shields and spears uplifted stood :
Ajax to meet them came ; and when he reach'd
The friendly ranks, again he turn'd to bay. 680
So rag'd, like blazing fire, the furious fight.

Meanwhile the mares of Neleus, drench'd with sweat,
Bore Nestor and Machaon from the field ;
Achilles saw, and mark'd them where he stood
Upon his lofty vessel's prow, and watch'd 685
The grievous toil, the lamentable rout.

Then on his friend Patroclus from the ship
He call'd aloud ; he heard his voice, and forth,
As Mars majestic, from the tent he came :
(That day commenc'd his evil destiny) 690
And thus Menœtius' noble son began :

“Why call'st thou me? what wouldst thou, Peleus'son?”
To whom Achilles, swift of foot, replied :
“Son of Menœtius, dearest to my soul,
Soon must the suppliant Greeks before me kneel, 695
So insupportable is now their need.

But haste thee now, Patroclus, dear to Jove :
Enquire of Nestor, from the battle field

Whom brings he wounded ; looking from behind
Most like he seem'd to *Æseulapius'* son, 700
Machaon ; but his face I could not see,
So swiftly past the eager horses flew."

He said : obedient to his friend's command,
Quick to the tents and ships Patroclus ran.

They, when they reach'd the tent of Neleus' son, 705
Descended to the ground; Eurymedon
The old man's mares unharness'd from the car,
While on the beach they fac'd the cooling breeze,
Which from their garments dried the sweat; then
turn'd,

And in the tent on easy seats repos'd. 710

For them the fair-hair'd Hecamede mix'd

A cordial potion ; her from Tenedos,

When by Achilles ta'en, the old man brought;

Daughter of great Arsinös, whom the Greeks

On him, their sagest counsellor, bestow'd. 715

Before them first a table fair she spread,

Well polish'd, and with feet of solid bronze ;

On this a brazen canister she plac'd,

And onions, as a relish to the wine,

And pale clear honey, and pure barley meal : 720

By these a splendid goblet, which from home
Th' old man had brought, with golden studs adorn'd :
Four were its handles, and round each two doves
Appear'd to feed ; at either end, a cup.

Scarce might another move it from the board, 725
When full ; but aged Nestor rais'd with ease.

In this, their goddess-like attendant first
A gen'rous measure mix'd of Pramnian wine :

Then with a brazen grater shredded o'er
The goatsmilk cheese, and whitest barley meal, 730

And of the draught compounded bade them drink.

They drank, and then, reliev'd the parching thirst,
With mutual converse entertain'd the hour.

Before the gate divine Patroclus stood :

The old man saw, and from his seat arose, 735

And took him by the hand, and led him in,

And bade him sit ; but he, refusing, said :

“ No seat for me, thou venerable sire !

I must not stay ; for he both awe and fear

Commands, who hither sent me to enquire 740

What wounded man thou hast ; I need not ask,

I know Machaon well, his people's guard.
My errand done, I must my message bear
Back to Achilles ; and thou know'st thyself,
Thou venerable sire, how stern his mood : 745
Nay sometimes blames he, where no blame is due "

To whom Gerenian Nestor thus replied :
" Whence comes Achilles' pity for the Greeks
By Trojan weapons wounded ? knows he not
What depth of suff'ring through the camp prevails ?
How in the ships, by arrow or by spear 751
Sore wounded, all our best and bravest lie ?
The valiant son of Tydeus, Diomed,
Pierc'd by a shaft ; Ulysses by a spear,
And Agamemnon's self ; Eurypylus 755
By a sharp arrow through the thigh transfix'd ;
And here another, whom but now I bring,
Shot by a bow, from off the battle field :
Achilles, valiant as he is, the while
For Grecian woes nor care nor pity feels. 760
Waits he, until our ships beside the sea,
In our despite, are burnt by hostile fires,
And we be singly slain ? not mine is now

The strength I boasted once of active limbs.
O that such youth and vigour yet were mine, 765
As when about a cattle-lifting raid
We fought th' Eleans ; there Itymoneus
I slew, the son of brave Hyperochus,
Who dwelt in Elis ; and my booty drove.
He sought to guard the herd ; but from my hand 770
A jav'lin struck him in the foremost ranks :
He fell, and terror seiz'd the rustic crowd.
Abundant store of plunder from the plain
We drove : of hornèd cattle fifty herds ;
As many flocks of sheep, as many droves 775
Of swine, as many wide-spread herds of goats,
And thrice so many golden-chesnut mares,
The foals of many running with their dams.
To Pylos, Neleus' city, these we drove
By night ; and much it gladden'd Neleus' heart, 780
That I, though new to war, such prize had won.
When morn appear'd, the clear-voic'd heralds call'd
For all to whom from Elis debts were due ;
Collected thus, the Pyliaus' leading men
Division made : for Elis ow'd us much ; 785

Such wrongs we few in Pylos had sustain'd.
The might of Hercules in former years
Had storm'd our town, and all our bravest slain.
Twelve gallant sons had Neleus ; I of these
Alone was left ; the others all were gone. 790
Whence over-proud, th' Epeians treated us
With insult, and high-handed violence.
A herd of oxen now, and num'rous flock
Of sheep, th' old man selected for himself,
Three hundred, with their shepherds ; for to him 795
Large compensation was from Elis due.
Train'd to the course, four horses, with their cars,
He for the Tripod at th' Elean games
Had sent to run ; these Augeas, King of men,
Detain'd, and bade the drivers home return, 800
Bootless, and grieving for their horses' loss.
Th' old man his words resenting, and his acts,
Large spoils retain'd ; the rest among the crowd
He shar'd, that none might lose his portion due.
These we dispos'd of soon, and to the Gods 805
Due off'rings made ; but when the third day rose,
Back in all haste. in numbers, horse and foot,

Our foes return'd ; with them the Molion twins,
Yet boys, untutor'd in the arts of war.
Far off, by Alpheus' banks, th' extremest verge 810
Of sandy Pylos, is a lofty mound,
The city of Thryum ; which around, intent
To raze its walls, their army was encamp'd.
The plain already they had overspread ;
When Pallas from Olympus' heights came down 815
In haste, and bade us all prepare for war.
On no unwilling ears her message fell,
But eager all for fight ; but me, to arm
Neleus forbade, and e'en my horses hid,
Deeming me yet unripe for deeds of war. 820
Yet so, albeit on foot, by Pallas' grace
A name I gain'd above our noblest horse.
There is a river, Minyis by name,
Hard by Arene, flowing to the sea,
Where we, the Pylian horse, expecting morn, 825
Encamp'd, by troops of footmen quickly join'd.
Thence in all haste advancing, all in arms,
We reach'd, by midday, Alpheus' sacred stream.
There, to o'erruling Jove our off'rings made,

To Alpheus and to Neptune each a bull, 830

To Pallas, blue-ey'd Maid, a heifer fair,

In order'd ranks we took our ev'ning meal,

And each in arms upon the river's brink

Lay down to rest; for close beside us lay

Th' Epeians, on the town's destruction bent. 835

Then saw they mighty deeds of war display'd;

For we, as sunlight overspread the earth,

To Jove and Pallas praying, battle gave.

But when the Pylians and th' Epeians met,

I first a warrior slew, and seiz'd his car, 840

Bold spearman, Mulius; Angeas' son-in-law,

His eldest daughter's husband, Agamede,

The yellow-hair'd, who all the virtues knew

Of each medicinal herb the wide world grows.

Him, with my brass-tipp'd spear, as on he came, 845

I slew; he fell; I, rushing to his car,

Stood 'mid the foremost ranks; th' Epeians brave

Fled diverse, when they saw their champion fall,

Chief of their horsemen, foremost in the fight.

With the dark whirlwind's force, I onward rush'd, 850

And fifty cars I took; two men in each

Fell to my spear, and bit the bloody dust.

Then Actor's sons, the Molions, had I slain,

Had not th' Earth-shaking God, their mighty sire,
Veil'd in thick cloud, withdrawn them from the field ;

Then Jove great glory to the Pylians gave. 856

For o'er the wide-spread plain we held pursuit,

Slaying, and gath'ring up the scatter'd arms,

Nor till corn-clad Buprasium, and the rock

Olenian, and Alesium, term'd the Mound, 860

Stay'd we our steeds ; there Pallas bade us turn.

There the last man I slew, and left ; the Greeks

Back from Buprasium drove their flying cars

To Pylos, magnifying all the name,

'Mid men, of Nestor, as 'mid Gods, of Jove. 865

Such once was I 'mid men, while yet I was ;

Now to himself alone Achilles keeps

His valour ; yet hereafter, when the Greeks

Have perish'd all, remorse shall touch his soul.

Dear friend, remember now th' injunctions giv'n 870

By old Menœtius, when from Phthian land

He sent thee forth to Agamemnon's aid :

I, and Laertes' godlike son, within,

Heard all his counsel; to the well-built house
Of Peleus we on embassy had come, 875
Throughout Achaia's fertile lands to raise
The means of war; Menœtius there we found,
Achilles, and thyself within the house;
While in the court-yard aged Peleus slew,
And to the Lord of thunder offer'd up 880
A fatten'd steer; and from a golden bowl
O'er the burnt-off 'ring pour'd the ruddy wine.
We two, while ye were busied with the flesh,
Stood at the gate; surpris'd, Achilles rose,
And took us by the hand, and bade us sit, 885
Dispensing all the hospitable rites.
With food and wine recruited, I began
My speech, and urg'd ye both to join the war:
Nor were ye loth to go; much sage advice
Your elders gave; old Peleus bade his son 890
To aim at highest honours, and surpass
His comrades all; Menœtius, Actor's son,
To thee this counsel gave: 'My son,' he said,
'Achilles is by birth above thee far;
Thou art in years the elder; he in strength 895

Surpasses thee ; do thou with prudent words
And timely speech address him, and advise
And guide him ; he will, to his good, obey.'

' Such were the old man's words ; but thou hast let
His counsel slip thy mem'ry ; yet ev'n now 900
Speak to Achilles thus, and stir his soul,
If haply he will hear thee ; and who knows
But by the grace of Heav'n thou mayst prevail ?
For great is oft a friend's persuasive pow'r.
But if the fear of evil prophesied, 905
Or message by his Goddess-mother brought
From Jove, restrain him, let him send thee forth
With all his force of warlike Myrmidons,
That thou mayst be the saving light of Greece.
Then let him bid thee to the battle bear 910
His glitt'ring arms ; if so the men of Troy,
Scar'd by his likeness, may forsake the field,
And breathing-time afford the sons of Greece,
Toil-worn ; for little pause has yet been theirs.
Fresh and unwearied, ye with ease may drive 915
To their own city, from our ships and tents,
The Trojans, worn and battle-wearied men."

Thus he ; Patroclus' spirit within him burn'd,
And tow'rd Achilles' tent in haste he sped.
But, running, as Ulysses' ship he pass'd, 920
Where was the Council and the Justice-seat,
And where were built the altars of the Gods,
There met him, halting from the battle-field,
Shot through the thigh, Euæmon's Heav'n-born son,
Eurypylus ; his head and shoulders dank 925
With clammy sweat, while from his grievous wound
Stream'd the dark blood ; yet firm was still his soul.
Mencæti' noble son with pity saw,
And deeply sorrowing thus address'd the chief :

“ Woe for the chiefs and councillors of Greece ! 930
And must ye, far from friends and native home,
Glut with your flesh the rav'ning dogs of Troy ?
Yet tell me this, Heav'n-born Eurypylus ;
Still do the Greeks 'gainst Hector's giant force
Make head ? or fall they, vanquish'd by his spear ? ”

To whom with prudent speech, Eurypylus : 936
“ No source, Heav'n-born Patroclus, have the Greeks,
Of aid, but all must perish by their ships :
For in the ships lie all our bravest late,

By spear or arrow struck, by Trojan hands ; 940
And fiercer, hour by hour, their onset grows.
But save me now, and lead me to the ships ;
There cut the arrow out, and from the wound
With tepid water cleanse the clotted blood :
Then soothing drugs apply, of healing pow'r, 945
Which from Achilles, thou, 'tis said, hast learn'd,
From Chiron, justest of the Centaurs, he.
For Podalirius and Machaon both,
Our leeches, one lies wounded in the tents,
Himself requiring sore the leech's aid ; 950
The other on the plain still dares the fight."

To whom again Menœtius' noble son :
"How may this be ? say, brave Eurypylus,
What must I do ? a messenger am I,
Sent by Gerenian Nestor, prop of Greece, 955
With tidings to Achilles ; yet ev'n so
I will not leave thee in this weary plight."

He said, and passing his supporting hand
Beneath his breast, the wounded warrior led
Within the tent ; th' attendant saw, and spread 960
The ox-hide couch ; then as he lay reclin'd,

Patroclus, with his dagger, from the thigh
Cut out the biting shaft ; and from the wound
With tepid water cleans'd the clotted blood ;
Then, pounded in his hands, a root applied 965
Astringent, anodyne, which all his pain
Allay'd ; the wound was dried, and stanch'd the blood.

ARGUMENT.

THE BATTLE AT THE GRECIAN WALL.

The Greeks having retired into their entrenchments, Hector attempts to force them ; but it proving impossible to pass the ditch, Polydamas advises to quit their chariots, and manage the attack on foot. The Trojans follow his counsel, and having divided their army into five bodies of foot, begin the assault. But upon the signal of an eagle with a serpent in his talons, which appeared on the left hand of the Trojans, Polydamas endeavours to withdraw them again. This Hector opposes, and continues the attack ; in which, after many actions, Sarpedon makes the first breach in the wall : Hector also, casting a stone of a vast size, forces open one of the gates, and enters at the head of his troops, who victoriously pursue the Grecians even to their ships.

BOOK XII.

THUS o'er the wounded chief Eurypylus
Watch'd in his tent Menoetius' noble son ;
But hand to hand the Greeks and Trojans fought ;
Nor longer might the ditch th' assault repel,
Nor the broad wall above, which Greeks had built, 5
To guard their ships, and round it dug the ditch ;
But to the Gods no hecatombs had paid,
That they the ships and all the stores within
Might safely keep ; against the will of Heav'n
The work was done, and thence not long endur'd. 10
While Hector liv'd, and Peleus' son his wrath
Retain'd, and Priam's city untaken stood ;
So long the Grecian wall remain'd entire :
But of the Trojans when the best had fall'n,
Of Greeks, when some were slain, some yet surviv'd ;
When the tenth year had seen the fall of Troy, 16
And Greeks, embark'd, had ta'en their homeward way,

Then Neptune and Apollo counsel took
To sap the wall by aid of all the streams
That seaward from the heights of Ida flow ; 20
Rhesus, Caresus, and Heptaporus,
Granicus, and Æsepus, Rhodius,
Scamander's stream divine, and Simois,
Where helms and shields lay buried in the sand,
And a whole race of warrior demigods : 25
These all Apollo to one channel turn'd ;
Nine days against the wall the torrent beat ;
And Jove sent rain continuous, that the wall
Might sooner be submerg'd ; while Neptune's self,
His trident in his hand, led on the stream, 30
Washing away the deep foundations, laid,
Laborious, by the Greeks, with logs and stones,
Now by fast-flowing Hellespont dispers'd.
The wall destroy'd, o'er all the shore he spread
A sandy drift ; and bade the streams return 35
To where of old their silver waters flow'd.
Such were, in future days, to be the works
Of Neptune and Apollo ; but meanwhile
Fierce rag'd the battle round the firm-built wall,

And frequent clatter'd on the turrets' beams 40
The hostile missiles : by the scourge of Jove
Subdued, the Greeks beside their ships were hemm'd,
By Hector scar'd, fell minister of Dread,
Who with the whirlwind's force, as ever, fought.
As when, by dogs and hunters circled round, 45
A boar, or lion, in his pride of strength,
Turns on his foes, while they in close array
Stand opposite, and frequent shoot their darts ;
Nor yet his spirit quails, but firm he stands
With suicidal courage ; swift he turns, 50
Where best to break the circling ranks ; where'er
He makes his rush, the circling ranks give way :
So Hector, here and there, amid the crowd,
Urg'd his companions on to cross the ditch :
The fiery steeds shrank back, and, snorting, stood 55
Upon the topmost brink ; for the wide ditch
Withheld them, easy nor to leap nor cross :
For steep arose on either side the banks,
And at the top with sharpen'd stakes were crown'd,
Thick-set and strong, which there the sons of Greece
Had planted, to repel th' invading foes. 61

Scarce might a horse, with well-wheel'd car attach'd,
Essay the passage ; but on foot they burn'd
To make th' attempt ; and thus Polydamas,
Approaching near, to valiant Hector spoke : 65

“ Hector, and all ye other chiefs of Troy,
And brave Allies, in vain we seek to drive
Our horses o'er the ditch ; 'tis hard to cross ;
'Tis crown'd with pointed stakes, and them behind
Is built the Grecian wall ; there to descend 70

And from our cars in narrow space to fight
Were certain ruin. If it be indeed
The will of Jove, high-thund'ring, to confound
The Greeks in utter rout, and us to aid,
I should rejoice that ev'ry Greek forthwith 75

Far from his home should fill a nameless grave ;
But should they turn, and we again be driv'n
Back from the ships, and hurried down the ditch,
Such were our loss, that scarce a messenger
Would live to bear the tidings to the town 80
Of our destruction by the rallied Greeks.

Hear then my counsel ; let us all agree
With our attendants here upon the bank

To leave our horses ; and ourselves on foot,
All arm'd, press on where Hector leads ; the Greeks,
If that their doom be nigh, will make no stand." 86

Thus spoke Polydamas ; his counsel pleas'd ;
And Hector sprang, in arms, from off his car ;
Nor long, the noble Hector when they saw,
Delay'd the other chiefs ; then gave command 90
Each to his own attendant, by the ditch
To keep the chariots all in due array ;
Then parting, form'd in order of attack,
In five divisions, with their sev'ral chiefs.

Round Hector throng'd, and bold Polydamas, 95
The best and bravest ; they who long'd the most
To storm the wall, and fight beside the ships.
With them Cebriones ; for Hector left,
To guard the horses, one of lesser note.

The next division was by Paris led, 100
Agenor, and Alcathöus ; the third
By Helenus, and brave Deiphobus,
Two sons of Priam ; Asius was the third,
Asius, the son of Hyrtacus ; who brought
His tow'ring fiery steeds from Selles' stream, 105

Hard by Arisba ; stout Æneas led
The fourth, Anchises' son, Archilochus
With him, and Acamas, Antenor's sons ;
Both skill'd alike in ev'ry point of war.
Of the far-fam'd Allies, Sarpedon held 110
The chief command ; and for his comrades chose
Asteropæus, and the warlike might
Of Glaucus ; these o'er all the rest he held
Pre-eminent in valour, save himself,
Who o'er them all superior stood confess'd. 115
These, interlac'd their shields of tough bull's-hide,
With eager step advanc'd, and deem'd the Greeks
Would, unresisting, fall before their ships.
The other Trojans and renown'd Allies
The words of wise Polydamas obey'd : 120
But Asius, son of Hyrtacus, refus'd
His horses and his charioteer to leave,
With them advancing to assail the ships.
Blind fool, unconscious ! from before those ships,
Escap'd from death, with horses and with car 125
Triumphant, to the breezy heights of Troy
He never shall return ; ill-omen'd fate

O'ershadowing, dooms him by the spear to fall
Of brave Idomeneus, Deucalion's son.
He tow'rd the left inclin'd, what way the Greeks 130
With horse and chariot from the plain return'd.
That way he drove his horses ; and the gates
Unguarded found by bolt or massive bar.
Their warders held them open'd wide, to save
Perchance some comrade, flying from the plain. 135
Thither he bent his course ; with clamours loud
Follow'd his troops ; nor deem'd they that the Greeks
Would hold their ground, but fall amid their ships.
Little they knew ; before the gates they found
Two men, two warriors of the prime, two sons 140
Illustrious of the spear-skill'd Lapithæ :
Stout Polypœtes one, Pirithöus' son,
With whom Leonteus, bold as blood-stain'd Mars :
So stood these two before the lofty gates,
As on the mountain side two tow'ring oaks, 145
Which many a day have borne the wind and storm,
Firm rifted by their strong continuous roots :
So in their arms and vigour confident
Those two great Asius' charge, undaunted, met.

On th' other side, with shouts and wild uproar, 150
Their bull's-hide shields uplifted high, advanc'd
Against the well-built wall, Asius the King,
Iamenus, Orestes, Acamas
The son of Asius, and CEnomäus,
And Thöon ; those within to save the ships 155
Calling meanwhile on all the well-greav'd Greeks ;
But when they saw the wall by Trojans scal'd,
And heard the cry of Greeks in panic fear,
Sprang forth those two, before the gates to fight.
As when two boars, upon the mountain side, 160
Await th' approaching din of men and dogs,
Then sideways rushing, snap the wood around,
Ripp'd from the roots ; loud clash their clatt'ring tusks,
Till to the huntsman's spear they yield their lives ;
So clatter'd on those champions' brass-clad breasts 165
The hostile weapons ; stubbornly they fought,
Relying on their strength, and friends above :
For from the well-built tow'rs huge stones were hurl'd
By those who for themselves, their tents and ships,
Maintain'd defensive warfare ; thick they fell, 170
As wintry snow-flakes, which the boist'rous wind,

Driving the shadowy clouds, spreads fast and close
O'er all the surface of the fertile earth :

So thick, 'from Grecian and from Trojan hands,
The weapons flew ; on helm and bossy shield 175

With grating sound the pond'rous masses rang.

Then deeply groaning, as he smote his thigh

Thus spoke dismay'd the son of Hyrtacus :

“ O Father Jove, how hast thou lov'd our hopes
To falsify, who deem'd not that the Greeks 180

Would stand our onset, and resistless arms !

But they, as yellow-banded wasps, or bees,

That by some rocky pass have built their nests,

Abandon not their cavern'd home, but wait

Th' attack, and boldly for their offspring fight ; 185

So from the gates these two, though two alone,

Retire not, till they be or ta'en or slain.”

He said : but Jove regarded not his words ;

So much on Hector's triumph he was bent.

Like battle rag'd round th' other gates ; but hard 190

It were for me, with godlike pow'r, to paint

Each sev'ral combat ; for around the wall

A more than human storm of stone was pour'd

On ev'ry side ; the Greeks, hard press'd, perforce
Fought for their ships, while all the Gods look'd on
Indignant, who the Grecian cause upheld. 196

Fiercely the Lapithæ sustain'd the war :
Stout Polypoetes first, Pirithöus' son,
Smote, through the brass-cheek'd helmet, Damasus ;
Nor stay'd the brazen helm the spear, whose point
Went crashing through the bone, that all the brain
Was shatter'd ; onward as he rush'd, he fell. 202

Then Pylon next, and Ormenus he slew :
Meantime Leonteus, scion true of Mars,
Struck with unerring spear Hippomachus, 205
Son of Antimaehus, below the waist ;

Then, drawing from the sheath his trenchant sword,
Dash'd through the crowd, and hand to hand he smote
Antiphates ; he, backward, fell to earth.

Menon, Iamenus, Orestes next, 210

In quick succession to the ground he brought.
From these while they their glitt'ring armour stripp'd,
Round Hector throng'd, and bold Polydamas,
The bravest and the best, who long'd the most
To storm the wall, and burn with fire the ships. 215

Yet on the margin of the ditch they paus'd ;
For, as they sought to cross, a sign from Heav'n
Appear'd, to leftward of th' astonish'd crowd ;
A soaring eagle in his talons bore
A dragon, huge of size, of blood-red hue, 220
Alive, and breathing still, nor yet subdued ;
For twisting backward through the breast he pierc'd
His bearer, near the neck ; he, stung with pain,
Let fall his prey, which dropp'd amid the crowd ;
Then screaming, on the blast was borne away. 225
The Trojans, shudd'ring, in their midst beheld
The spotted serpent, dire portent of Jove :
Then to bold Hector thus Polydamas :
“ Hector, in council thou reprov'st me oft
For good advice ; it is not meet, thou say'st, 230
That private men should talk beside the mark,
In council or in war, but study still
Thine honour to exalt ; yet must I now
Declare what seems to me the wisest course :
Let us not fight the Greeks beside their ships ; 235
For thus I read the future, if indeed
To us, about to cross, this sign from Heav'n

Was sent, to leftward of th' astonish'd crowd :
A soaring eagle, bearing in his claws
A dragon, huge of size, of blood-red hue, 240
Alive ; yet dropp'd him ere he reach'd his home,
Nor to his nestlings bore th' intended prey :
So we, e'en though our mighty strength should break
The gates and wall, and put the Greeks to rout,
By the same road not scatheless should return, 245
But many a Trojan on the field should leave,
Slain by the Greeks, while they their ships defend.
So would a seer, well vers'd in augury,
Worthy of public credit, read this sign."

To whom thus Hector of the glancing helm 250
Replied, with stern regard : " Polydamas,
This speech of thine is alien to my soul :
Thy better judgment better counsel knows.
But if in earnest such is thine advice,
Thee of thy senses have the Gods bereft, 255
Who fain wouldst have us disregard the word
And promise by the nod of Jove confirm'd,
And put our faith in birds' expanded wings ;
Little of these I reckon, nor care to look,

If to the right, and tow'rd the morning sun, 260
Or to the left, and shades of night, they fly.
Put we our trust in Jove's eternal will,
Of mortals and Immortals King supreme.
The best of omens is our country's cause.
Why shouldst thou tremble at the battle strife ? 265
Though ev'ry Trojan else were doom'd to die
Beside the ships, no fear lest thou shouldst fall :
Unwarlike is thy soul, nor firm of mood :
But if thou shrink, or by thy craven words
Turn back another Trojan from the fight, 270
My spear shall take the forfeit of thy life."

This said, he led the way ; with joyous shouts
They follow'd all ; then Jove, the lightning's Lord,
From Ida's heights a storm of wind sent down,
Driving the dust against the Grecian ships ; 275
Which quell'd their courage, and to Hector gave,
And to the Trojans, fresh incitement ; they,
On their own strength, and heav'nly signs relying,
Their force address'd to storm the Grecian wall.
They raz'd the counterscarp, the battlements 280
Destroy'd ; and the projecting buttresses.

Which, to sustain the tow'rs, the Greeks had fix'd
Deep in the soil, with levers undermin'd.

These once withdrawn, they hop'd to storm the wall ;
Nor from the passage yet the Greeks withdrew, 285
But closely fencing with their bull's-hide shields
The broken battlements, they thence hurl'd down
A storm of weapons on the foe beneath.

Commanding from the tow'r in ev'ry place
Were seen th' Ajaces, urging to the fight, 290
Imploring these, and those in sterner tones
Rebuking, who their warlike toil relax'd.

“ Friends, Grecians all, ye who excel in war,
And ye of mod'rate or inferior strength,
Though all are not with equal pow'rs endued, 295
Yet here is work for all ! bear this in mind,
Nor tow'rd the ships let any turn his face,
By threats dismay'd ; but forward press, and each
Encourage each, if so the lightning's Lord,
Olympian Jove, may grant us to repel, 300
And backward to his city chase the foe.”

Thus they, with cheering words, sustain'd the war :
Thick as the snow-flakes on a wintry day,

When Jove, the Lord of counsel, down on men
His snow-storm sends, and manifests his pow'r : 305
Hush'd are the winds ; the flakes continuous fall,
That the high mountain tops, and jutting crags,
And lotus-cover'd meads are buried deep,
And man's productive labours of the field ;
On hoary Ocean's beach and bays they lie, 310
Th' approaching waves their bound ; o'er all beside
Is spread by Jove the heavy veil of snow.
So thickly flew the stones from either side,
By Greeks on Trojans hurl'd, by these on Greeks ;
And clatter'd loud through all its length the wall.
Nor yet the Trojans, though by Hector led, 316
The gates had broken, and the massive bar,
But Jove against the Greeks sent forth his son
Sarpedon, as a lion on a herd :
His shield's broad orb before his breast he bore, 320
Well-wrought, of beaten brass, which th' arm'er's hand
Had beaten out, and lin'd with stout bull's-hide ;
With golden rods, continuous, all around ;
He thus equipp'd, two jav'lins brandishing,
Strode onward, as a lion, mountain-bred, 325

Whom, fasting long, his dauntless courage leads
To assail the flock, though in well-guarded fold ;
And though the shepherds there he find, prepar'd
With dogs and lances to protect the sheep,
Not unattempted will he leave the fold ; 330
But, springing to the midst, he bears his prey
In triumph thence ; or in the onset falls,
Wounded by jav'lines hurl'd by stalwart hands :
So, prompted by his godlike courage, burn'd
Sarpedon to assail the lofty wall, 335
And storm the ramparts ; and to Glaucus thus,
Son of Hippolochus, his speech address'd :

“ Whence is it, Glaucus, that in Lycian land
We two at feasts the foremost seats may claim,
The largest portions, and the fullest cups ? 340
Why held as Gods in honour ? why endow'd
With ample heritage, by Xanthus' banks,
Of vineyard, and of wheat producing land ?
Then by the Lycians should we not be seen
The foremost to affront the raging fight ? 345
So may our well-arm'd Lycians make their boast ;
' To no inglorious Kings we Lycians owe

Allegiance ; they on richest viands feed ;
Of luscious flavour drink the choicest wine ;
But still their valour brightest shows ; and they, 350
Where Lycians war, are foremost in the fight !
O friend ! if we, survivors of this war,
Could live, from age and death for ever free,
Thou shouldst not see me foremost in the fight,
Nor would I urge thee to the glorious field : 355
But since on man ten thousand forms of death
Attend, which none may 'scape, then on, that we
May glory on others gain, or they on us ! ”

Thus he ; nor Glaucus from his bidding shrank ;
And forward straight they led the Lycian pow'rs. 360
Menestheus, son of Petœus, with dismay
Observ'd their movement ; for on his command,
Inspiring terror, their attack was made.
He look'd around him to the Grecian tow'rs,
If any chief might there be found, to save 365
His comrades from destruction ; there he saw,
Of war insatiable, th' Ajaces twain ;
And Teucer, from the tent but newly come,
Hard by ; nor yet could reach them with his voice ;

Such was the din, such tumult rose to Heav'n, 370
From clatt'ring shields, and horsehair-crested helms,
And batter'd gates, now all at once assail'd :
Before them fiercely strove th' assaulting bands
To break their way : he then Thoötes sent,
His herald, to th' Ajaces, craving aid. 375

“ Haste thee, Thoötes, on th' Ajaces call,
Both, if it may be ; so we best may hope
To 'scape the death, which else is near at hand ;
So fierce the pressure of the Lycian chiefs,
Undaunted now, as ever, in the fight. 380

But if they too are hardly press'd, at least
Let Ajax, son of Telamon, be spar'd,
And with him Teucer, skilled to draw the bow.”
He said ; the herald heard, and straight obey'd ;
Along the wall, where stood the brass-clad Greeks, 385
He ran, and standing near th' Ajaces, said :

“ Ajaces, leaders of the brass-clad Greeks,
The son of Heav'n-born Petöus craves your aid,
To share awhile the labours of his guard ;
Both, if it may be ; so he best may hope 390
To 'scape the death, which else is near at hand :

So fierce the pressure of the Lycian chiefs,

Undaunted now, as ever, in the fight.

But if ye too are hardly press'd, at least

Let Ajax, son of Telamon, be spar'd, 395

And with him Tencer, skill'd to draw the bow."

He said : the mighty son of Telamon

Consenting, thus addresss'd Oileus' son :

" Ajax, do thou and valiant Lycomedes

Exhort the Greeks the struggle to maintain ; 400

While I go yonder, to affront the war,

To aid their need, and back return in haste."

Thus saying, Ajax Telamon set forth,

And with him Tencer went, his father's son,

While by Pandion Teucer's bow was borne. 405

At brave Menestheus' tow'r, within the wall,

Arriv'd, sore press'd they found the garrison ;

For like a whirlwind on the ramparts pour'd

The Lycians' valiant councillors and chiefs.

They quickly join'd the fray, and loud arose 410

The battle-cry ; first Ajax Telamon

Sarpedon's comrade, brave Epicles, slew,

Struck by a rugged stone. within the wall

Which lay, the topmost of the parapet,
Of size prodigious ; which with both his hands 415
A man in youth's full vigour scarce could raise,
As men are now ; he lifted it on high,
And downward hurl'd ; the four-peak'd helm it broke,
Crushing the bone, and shatt'ring all the skull ;
He, like a diver, from the lofty tow'r 420
Fell headlong down, and life forsook his bones.
Teucer, meanwhile, from off the lofty wall
The valiant Glaucus, pressing to the fight,
Struck with an arrow, where he saw his arm
Unguarded ; he no longer brook'd the fray ; 425
Back from the wall he sprang, in hopes to hide
From Greeian eyes his wound, that none might see,
And triumph o'er him with insulting words.
With grief Sarpedon saw his friend withdraw,
Yet not relax'd his efforts ; Thestor's son, 430
Alemaon, with his spear he stabb'd, and back
The weapon drew ; he, following, prostrate fell,
And loudly rang his arms of polish'd brass.
Then at the parapet, with stalwart hand,
Sarpedon tugg'd ; and yielding to his force 435

Down fell the block entire ; the wall laid bare,
To many at once the breach gave open way.
Ajax and Teucer him at once assail'd ;
This with an arrow struck the glitt'ring belt
Around his breast, whence hung his pond'rous shield ;
But Jove, who will'd not that his son should fall 441
Before the ships, the weapon turn'd aside.
Then forward Ajax sprang, and with his spear
Thrust at the shield ; the weapon pass'd not through,
Yet check'd his bold advance ; a little space 445
Back he recoil'd, but not the more withdrew,
His soul on glory intent ; and rallying quick,
Thus to the warlike Lycians shouted loud :

“ Why, Lycians, thus your wonted might relax ?
'Tis hard for one alone, how brave soe'er, 450
E'en though he break the rampart down, to force
A passage to the ships ; but on with me !
For work is here for many hands to do.”

He said ; and by the King's rebuke abash'd,
With fiercer zeal the Lycians press'd around 455
Their King and counsellor ; on th' other side
Within the wall the Greeks their squadrons mass'd ;

Then were great deeds achiev'd ; nor thro' the breach
Could the brave troops of Lycia to the ships
Their passage force ; nor could the warrior Greeks 460
Repel the Lycians from the ground, where they,
Before the wall, had made their footing good.
As when two neighbours, in a common field,
Each line in hand, witlin a narrow space,
About the limits of their land contend ; 465
Between them thus the rampart drew the line ;
O'er which the full-orb'd shields of tough bull's-hide,
And lighter bucklers on the warriors' breasts
On either side they clove ; and many a wound
The pitiless weapons dealt, on some who, turn'd, 470
Their neck and back laid bare ; on many more,
Who full in front, and through their shields were struck.
On ev'ry side the parapet and tow'rs
With Greek and Trojan blood were spatter'd o'er.
Nor yet, e'en so, the Greeks to flight were driv'n ; 475
But as a woman that for wages spins,
Honest and true, with wool and weights in hand,
In even balance holds the scales, to mete
Her humble hire, her children's maintenance ;

So even hung the balance of the war, 480

Till Jove with highest honour Hector crown'd,

The son of Priam ; he, the foremost, seal'd

The wall, and loudly on the Trojans call'd :

“ On, valiant Trojans, on ! the Grecian wall
Break down, and wrap their ships in blazing fires.”

Thus he, exhorting, spoke ; they heard him all, 486

And to the wall rush'd numberless, and swarm'd

Upon the ramparts, bristling thick with spears.

Then Hector, stooping, seiz'd a pond'rous stone

That lay before the gates ; 'twas broad below, 490

But sharp above ; and scarce two lab'ring men,

The strongest, from the ground could raise it up,

And load upon a wain ; as men are now ;

But he unaided lifted it with ease,

So light it seem'd, by grace of Saturn's son. 495

As in one hand a shepherd bears with ease

A full-siz'd fleece, and scarcely feels the weight ;

So Hector tow'rd the portals bore the stone,

Which clos'd the lofty double-folding gates,

Within defended by two massive bars 500

Laid crosswise, and with one cross bolt secur'd.

Close to the gate he stood ; and planting firm
His foot, to give his arm its utmost pow'r,
Full on the middle dash'd the mighty mass.
The hinges both gave way ; the pond'rous stone 505
Fell inwards ; widely gap'd the op'ning gates ;
Nor might the bars within the blow sustain :
This way and that the sever'd portals flew
Before the crashing missile ; dark as night
His low'ring brow, great Hector sprang within ; 510
Bright flash'd the brazen armour on his breast,
As through the gates, two jav'lins in his hand,
He sprang ; the Gods except, no pow'r might meet
That onset ; blaz'd his eyes with lurid fire.
Then to the Trojans, turning to the throng, 515
He call'd aloud to scale the lofty wall ;
They heard, and straight obey'd ; some scal'd the wall :
Some through the strong-built gates continuous pour'd ;
While in confusion irretrievable
Fled to their ships the panic-stricken Greeks. 520

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